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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume 21

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No. 26

## GOOD FRIENDS GET TOGETHER AT CONVENTION



Shown at the President's Reception, held in connection with the recent A.I.A. Convention in Grand Rapids, are Margaret Allen, Bill Kapp, Helen Kapp, Nina Palmer, Clair Ditchy, Talmage Hughes, Bill Palmer, the James Sextons, the Charles Firestones, Margaret Hughes, Roger Allen and Bernice Ditchy.

Journal of The A. I. A.  
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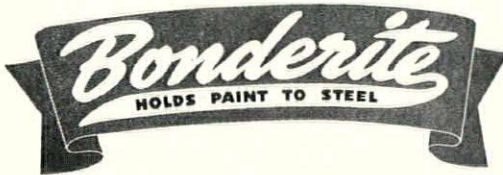
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## SOCIETY BOARD PLANS MACKINAC MEETING

### Reservations Should Be Made Now

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects, meeting at the Detroit Athletic Club on June 11, sketched a program for the Society's Mid-Summer Meeting at the Grand Hotel, on Mackinac Island, scheduled for August 4 and 5. Alden Dow, Talmage Hughes and Arthur Hyde were named as a Committee to complete arrangements.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Langius, Zimmerman, Stone, Dow, Cowin, Allen, Pellerin, Hyde, Brysselbout, Cole and Hughes.

On invitation of the Board, also in attendance were Branson V. Gamber, State Association Director of the Institute, and John P. O'Hara, the Society's attorney.

President Langius presented Arthur K. Hyde, the Society's new Director, who succeeds Kenneth C. Black, resigned because of his duties as Great Lakes Regional Director of the Institute. At Mr. Black's request he was also relieved of his duties as Chairman of the Society's Committee on Public and Professional Relations. Kapp, a member of the Committee, was moved up to Chairman, and Hyde was added as a member.

Secretary Art Zimmermann reported that the three state chapters had approved the Langius Report on Unification as published in the last Convention Number of the Weekly Bulletin, the only exception being the Detroit Chapter's recommendation that the Society become a "State Organization" of the Institute.

Gamber reviewed progress in unification throughout the country, saying that he was sure that everyone was tired of hearing the word. However, he reiterated that unification means simplification. Since the Michigan chapters are unwilling to surrender their charters, the Society can become a "State Organization" of the A.I.A., leaving the chapters as they are.

Julian Cowin, delegated to rewrite the Society's by-laws to conform with the new plan, reported progress on that project.

It would not be surprising to know that a great many members are confused about this matter, as many of those close to the situation are also confused. In Michigan we have felt that we are unified, since 90% of the Michigan architects are members of the Institute and, by reason of that, automatically members of the State Society. Membership in the Society is, therefore, 100% A.I.A. However, there is still the question of what final form the Society will assume. The answer is, undoubtedly, that it will be a "State Organization" of the Institute, with membership made up only of members of the three chapters in the state, the chapters to elect directors in proportion to their membership, and those directors to elect their own officers. The Society is to act as a coordinating body for the chapters and deal with matters of state-wide interest.

Prior to the Board meeting, the Committee on Education and Research met and laid plans for the coming year. The Committee is composed of Alden B. Dow, Chairman; Paul A. Brysselbout, Paul A. Flanagan, Earl W. Pellerin and

William A. Stone. This Committee proposes to conduct a competition and exhibition among members of the Society in the small house field. It is Alden Dow's belief that architects have got to take hold of this problem and solve it or be left "in the shade". He would, therefore, require every member of the Society to enter the competition or be assessed \$100. The problem would be for the architect's own house, to cost not to exceed \$4,500, according to a schedule of material and labor prices included with the program.

Codes would be disregarded and competitors encouraged to use their ingenuity toward lowering costs. All designs would have to be signed by the architect, and they would be published in the Weekly Bulletin and exhibited in a show that would be sent around the state. It is further suggested that plans be offered for sale at a nominal amount, and some of the houses built, so that the public could be the judge. This project will be further developed and aired at the Mid-Summer meeting at the Grand Hotel.

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## GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

Announced by Kenneth C. Black, Regional Director, A.I.A.

There will be a conference of the architects and architectural students of the Great Lakes District, A.I.A., at Dayton, Ohio, on Friday and Saturday, October 3rd and 4th, 1947. The conference will be in seminar form. The Friday morning seminar will be devoted to the subject of the planning and design of retail trade centers. Urban planning will be the subject for Friday afternoon and on Saturday morning the planning and design of contemporary residential architecture will hold the floor. It is planned to have distinguished authorities on hand to discuss various phases of each subject and a question and answer period will follow each presentation.

On Friday evening, October 3rd, there will be a banquet at which Douglas William Orr, president of the A.I.A., will speak on the subject, "The Present Program and Policies of the American Institute of Architects". Roger Allen will be the toastmaster.

Details of the subjects and speakers for the three seminars will be announced from time to time as the speakers panels for each seminar are completed. All architects in the Great Lakes District should mark these dates on their calendars and plan to attend these seminars. Chapter presidents in the region should arrange the dates of their October meetings to leave the 3rd and 4th free for the Dayton conference.

The Dayton Chapter, our hosts for the meeting, have arranged for room accommodations at the Van Cleve and Miami hotels. Room reservation cards will be sent to each member in the district approximately three weeks in advance of the meeting.

Watch our future issues for up-to-the-minute details.

### SAARINEN & SWANSON DESIGN MILWAUKEE WAR MEMORIAL

The office of Saarinen & Swanson has been commissioned to design the Milwaukee War Memorial. Recently at the Milwaukee Art Institute there was held an exhibition of the work of that office and Cranbrook, including models, renderings and photographs. Also shown were paintings by Zoltan Sepeshy, David Friedenthal and Harry Bertoia, and sculpture by Cranbrook's famed Carl Milles.

EBERLE M. SMITH has just moved into his new home on Grosse Ile. The modern solar house, with radiant heat, on the riverfront at the east side of the island, is of most attractive modern design.

LOUIS KAMPER has just returned from a vacation in California. He reports a most enjoyable time. His many friends will rejoice in knowing that he is in good health and enjoying life. Following his California trip he spent a week in New York City.

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## UNSEEN ARCHITECTURE

We chanced to fall into the interesting company of Ted Hillier of the Dunn Blue Print Company, and he is very much wrapped up in his work with the blind, as are all members of the Detroit Lions Club.

What can we do for them? Well, we got to talking about the Franklin School for the Blind, and he was telling us about a projected library of models for the little tots. They want scale models of buildings, animals, machinery, etc., so that the youngsters who have been blind from birth may better "visualize," through their sense of touch, things in

the world that the rest of us take for granted.

Ted went on to tell us, "The thought has occurred to me that some of the architectural offices have plaster scale models of buildings or projects that have outlived their usefulness, and some of them might be donated for our purpose.

"If you could see these tots, some of them maimed in addition to their blindness, and the problems their education presents, you would be more than repaid for any troublesome lengths you might have to go to, to help us.

"It goes without saying that the entire membership of The Uptown Detroit Lions—of which your good friend, the late Dave Davenport, A.I.A., was a much-beloved member—joins with me in extending our sincere thanks for your willingness to use your columns to publicize our efforts."

Arrangements will be made to pick up any such models you have and take them to the school.

Call Ted Hillier at MADison 2125, if you like, or the Weekly Bulletin office, CHerry 7660.

Get busy for those kiddies—dust off those models and call us.

## MODEL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE

The Michigan Planning Commission has just issued A MODEL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE for single and two-family dwellings, it is announced by Don C. Weeks, Commission Director.

The model code, published after nearly two years of study of the subject, was issued in response to wide demand among local building officials. It was written as a guide to any township board wishing to adopt an ordinance governing residential construction. Officials of some cities, villages and counties also expect to use it.

A second model township code for use primarily in resort areas covering cottages, cabins, etc., is being prepared.

Those interested can obtain copies of these model codes by writing the Michigan Planning Commission, 422 West Michigan Ave., Lansing 15, Mich.

## SCHURMAN ON LEAVE

John Schurman, of the firm of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc., is taking an extended leave of absence from that office, after 41 years of continuous service. He is an associated member of the firm. John spent a year in Russia with the Kahn forces, as instructor on American industrial building design and detailing, and was appointed Chief Engineer with the Bureau of Norms and Standards, to establish and publish "All Union" Standards of Industrial Building Construction Details.

During his well-deserved period of rest, it is hoped that there will be more time to attend our meetings and that we may see more of him among his fellow architects. His home address is 1646 Northlawn Drive, Birmingham, Mich.

## UNIFICATION

Michigan and Minnesota will be the next to fall in line with unification. Looks like Branson Gamber is doing a good job, which bears out the wisdom of his election as successor to Mat Delgaudio as State Association Director of the Institute.

The Minnesota and St. Paul Chapters have joined the Illinois-Wisconsin District of the Institute, which now becomes the North Central District. The Minnesota State Society is scheduled to become a State Organization of the Institute.

At a recent meeting of twenty members of the Alabama Society of Architects in the Montgomery area it was decided to form a Central District Branch of the Society and to petition the Society for a charter. Officers elected for the interim period are Bill Campbell, President; Farrow L. Tuttle, Vice-President, and Flynn Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer. Architects in the Birmingham area are considering a branch there also.

\* \* \*

RAY WILCOX, landscape architect, has returned from Tucson, Arizona, where he was on an extended "leave of absence" from his native Detroit. He reports enjoying seeing much of our good friend Kenneth Bell, who is expected to pay Detroit a visit this summer.

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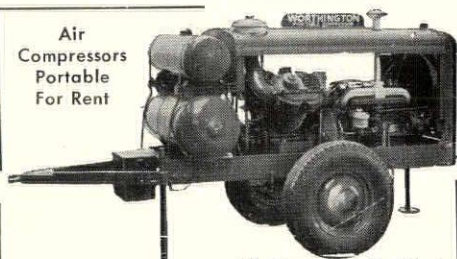
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Volume 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 8, 1947

No. 27

# MODERN RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

by CLAIR W. DITCHY, F.A.I.A.

From THE REVIEW—The Society of Residential Appraisers

*The public has been skeptical about modern houses and appraisers have been even more cautious as they observed the reaction to advanced designs. Yet the appraiser must be progressive if he is to forecast and so he should try to determine which elements of the new types of design will endure. He can more easily do that if he understands the reasons for some of the departures from traditional residential design. Mr. Ditchy, who is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, spoke before the Greater Detroit Chapter on this subject and the interest aroused by his talk prompted President Sheldon L. Drennan to secure this manuscript for the benefit of Society members who were not able to hear Mr. Ditchy.*

House design like everything else now-a-days seems to be going around in circles. Years ago, at the dawn of civilization, man was content to live in one room—a cave, a tent, a straw hut or a crude structure of four walls and a roof. Then, under the urge to improve himself and his surroundings, he enlarged his shelter and made it more substantial. By means of low partitions or screens, he subdivided it into compartments and elaborated the furniture and furnishings.

Later these screens were extended to the ceiling and eventually were equipped with doors and hardware so that each cubicle or room could be closed under lock and key. Still later each important room was reached by a corridor, so that privacy was maintained. The ultimate was achieved when every major activity of daily life was accommodated by a different room.

All of this was accomplished in the days when there was no servant problem. Who cared how far a maid had to travel in her daily tasks? But the industrial age brought about a great change. Factories and offices competed with the household menage for the services of the fair sex and apparently have won the battle. The servant problem is being solved by eliminating the need for them and this is accomplished by simplifying the home, making it more compact, equipping it with mechanical devices to perform many of the services which in the past were done by servants, and by making it possible to buy prepared, pre-cooked and preserved foods of every variety on the market. Exit trudging and drudgery.

And so from the elaborate home of the eighteenth century with its extravagant



Architectural Record

Architect Ditchy explains that the increased cost of labor makes simplicity in design inevitable for the future house, and forecasts gradual public acceptance of plain styles.

planning as far as footsteps, cleaning, and dusting and heating were concerned, our tendency today is toward the one room of our distant ancestors with, of course, a few concessions with regard to sleeping quarters, toilet facilities and a mere gesture of privacy for the kitchen. The attic and the basement are threatened with extermination. Human habits and attitudes have changed. The telephone, the automobile, the radio and the motion picture have had profound effects upon the house.

The function of the home has changed

gradually to accommodate our changed ways of living, and in doing this, we have found it necessary and logical to desert the architectural idiom of the past and to adopt one which more appropriately fits the present scene—and the improved materials now available.

The older architectural styles were developed when hand craftsmanship was the order of the day, when window glass could be made in small panes, when shutters really served a practical purpose and the romantic wrought iron "S"

Journal of The A. I. A.

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on a chimney actually worked as an anchor to give the chimney lateral stability. But now we find that labor is extremely expensive and that prefabricated items such as doors, trim, windows, plaster board (replacing lath), plywood in larger sheets replacing ship-lap subfloors), waterproofed fibre board (replacing sheathing) and many other materials, can greatly reduce the labor required on the site.

**STRONG PREJUDICE**

The time is also at hand when prefabricated houses will find ready acceptance by the public. There are many who disagree violently with this statement. Prefabricated houses, they say look ridiculous. They look like orange crates, like dry goods boxes, like summer cottages. They look flimsy, cheap, uninviting, unhomelike, and so on ad infinitum.

Now, public acceptance is a vital factor in the marketing of any article. Housing is no exception. The automobile manufacturer gauges the taste of the public very carefully and makes changes in his model only as rapidly as the public is disposed to accept them. The prefabricated house will undoubtedly follow a similar program. It will have to make concessions to the established conventions in housing tastes.

Practically all new building materials have had the same early struggle. Linoleum made its debut as imitation tile. Incandescent lamps were perched on top of cardboard candles. Metal panelling and furniture was much more elegant and acceptable to the public with a photographed wood finish on it. Steel perforated grilles were slavish imitations of cane grilles. Machine-made hardware affected a hand-made elegance with an exaggerated simulation of hammer marks.

**AVOID "DRESS UP"**

In like manner, we find a simulated traditional "architectural skin" stretched over many conveniences and improvements of today. For example, we have such anachronisms as Chippendale, and

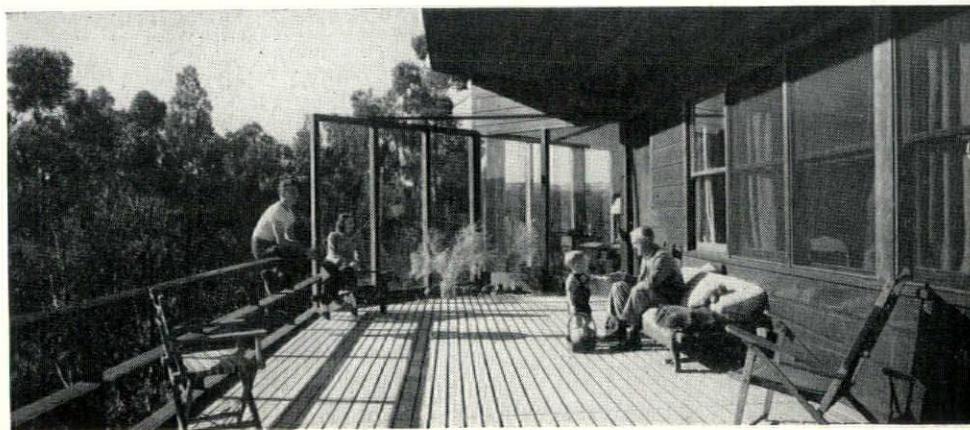
other period, cabinet radios; it may be that some of the jokes heard on the radio are of the same vintage as the architectural period which adorns the receiver set. But seriously there is no reason why the instrument should be out in the room at all. It will eventually be welcomed into the bosom of the house, as an integral part of it, built in so that there is no temporary plug-in electrical connection and no floor space occupied by it which could be better used for a chair or table.

Lighting and heating will make use of ceilings and walls as reflective and radiating surfaces and will accomplish a more uniform distribution of heat and light, thus adding to the comfort and health of the occupants.

One of the outstanding characteristics of modern house planning is the tendency toward freedom from restraint. In the olden days a man's house was his castle but it also had much of the atmosphere of a prison or fortress. The house was pitched high off the ground, had small windows, and in making it difficult for trespassers to enter, succeeded in making it difficult to live very comfortably. Lighting and heating were inadequate, the rooms were dismal little cubicles; wallpapers and paint were dull and uninteresting and, all told, the house was far from being an exciting background for living. Perhaps that is what prompted the poet, Edgar A. Guest, to write "It takes a heap o' livin' to make a house a home."

Today, in the interior, the space separations or divisions of use areas are accomplished with screens or furniture—movable elements—instead of a multiplicity of fixed partitions. Large expanses of glass welcome in the sunlight and open out onto vistas of the garden or other landscape features. Controlled temperatures and adequate lighting make all parts of the house equally livable.

A good house today is judged by what it provides in the way of: 1. Convenience and comfort, 2. Privacy—when and where privacy is required, 3. Sturdiness



Architectural Record

Outdoor living areas are no longer confined to summer homes. Many residential designs focus about huge window expanses, porches and terraces that are part of the new trend of "garden spots" in the city.

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## FOR ADVANCED PLANNING

Federal loans to aid the advance planning of public works by local and state governments will help to minimize the effects of future business recessions, J. Frazer Smith, Chairman of the Committees on the Architect and Governmental Relations of the American Institute of Architects, stated today.

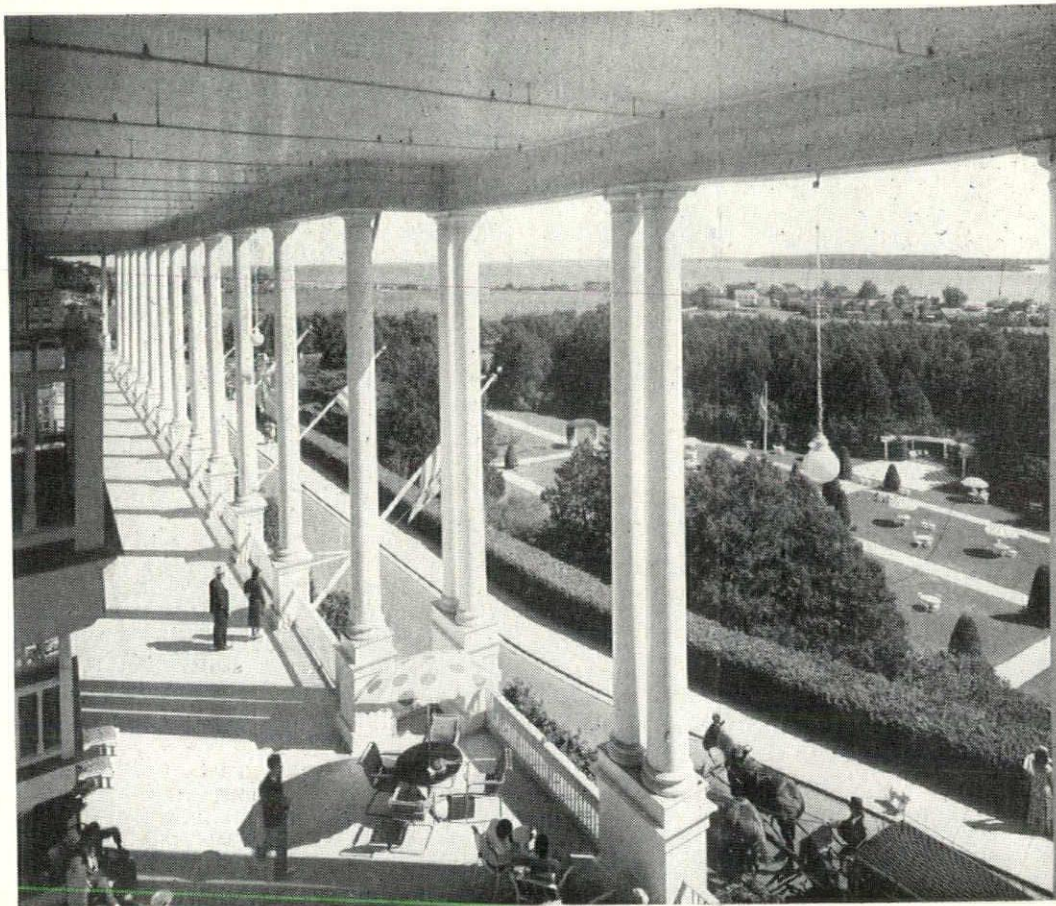
"New funds in the amount of \$35,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually are needed to supplement the \$60,000,000 previously appropriated by Congress for the same purpose, inasmuch as the initial fund has become exhausted," Mr. Smith said.

"The American Institute of Architects has endorsed the bill to this end which was introduced in Congress by Rep. F. A. Muhlenberg.

"Since the loans for advance planning are to be repaid when the public projects are constructed, the fund will not represent a drain on the Federal Treasury. It will, however, help to make more certain that there will be an ample reserve of planned projects ready to build on short notice at any time in the future when the volume of private construction shows signs of tapering off.

"By creating such a reserve, it will be possible to minimize the sharp fluctuations in building volume which have characterized the construction industry in the past, and employment in the building trades will become more stable.

"When the last depression started, there was no large reserve of pre-planned public works, with the result that billions of dollars were spent on work relief to provide emergency employment, when the same funds could have been used to construct needed public works and at the same time provide bona fide jobs for the unemployed.



**THE GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND, Michigan. Make your reservations now, direct with the hotel, for the Mid-Summer Meeting of the Society. Make your own arrangements for transportation. Dates of the event are August 4 and 5. The hotel will accept reservations beginning Aug. 3 and extending to Aug. 6**

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and lasting qualities in structure and in appointments and 4. The gracious, modest and unobtrusive way in which these various factors are blended. It must fit into the neighborhood; it must indeed be a good neighbor. But if it tends to be tricky or faddy, or complicated, a residence runs great risk of becoming prematurely obsolete.



Architectural Record Photographs

Natural light is favored wherever possible and materials are unadorned as in the brick wall containing the fireplace or the panelled side wall.

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Simplicity almost to the point of being barren has been brought about partly by lack of servants to clean and care for elaborate furnishings.

### LIGHTING COMPETITION

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Over 800 Electrical Contractors, Electrical Wholesalers, Public Utility Lighting Specialists, Architects and Engineers will enter the 2nd International Lighting Exposition's Merit Award Competition, according to estimates based on entries already received. "Further," states the Merit Award Committee, "entries are being received from all over the United States, and are about evenly divided between the four eligible groups.

"Few competitions," the Committee points out, "have offered greater opportunity to entrants for national recognition of their efforts in behalf of Planned Lighting. All entries accepted by the board of five judges will be awarded Merit Award Certificates and will be given prominent display at the Exposition, where they will be viewed by an expected ten thousand people.

#### \$100 Gold Seal Awards

"In addition, three entries in each group will be granted Gold Seal Merit Award Certificates with cash awards of one hundred dollars each. The total cash awards will be \$1200, with four \$100 awards going to each of the following eligible groups: 1. Electrical Contractors. 2. Electrical Wholesalers. 3. Architects and Consulting Engineers. 4. Utility Lighting and Power Men.

#### Official Rule Book Contains Entry Blank

"The Committee urges everyone in the eligible groups who have installations in stores, offices, factories or service stations of which they are proud, to enter. The rules are simple.

"The Merit Award Certificates will be announced and awarded on the opening day of the 2nd International Lighting Exposition, which is being held on November 3-7, 1947, at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago under the sponsorship of the Industrial and Commercial Lighting Equipment Section of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association."

Those desiring to enter the competition should write for the Official Rules Book and Entry Blank. These are available from all lighting equipment manufacturers who will exhibit at the Exposition, or by writing The Merit Award Committee, 326 W. Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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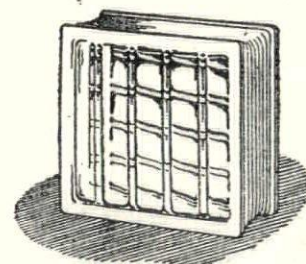
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN**ILLINOIS SOCIETY'S  
50TH ANNUAL MEET**

The ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS will hold its 50th Annual Meeting and Dinner, June 24, 1947, at 6:00 P.M. in the Club Rooms of the Chicago Bar Association, 29 S. LaSalle St.

The Society was founded in 1897 to handle the business and legislative activities of the profession and to cultivate a thorough knowledge of the scientific, administrative possibilities of the practice of architecture, and to facilitate the interchange of ideas and encourage discussion of its problems as well as to emphasize its obligation to the public. The Society has been very active through the past half century in the advancement of the architectural profession.

The ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS was successful in having enacted the Illinois Architectural Act which was the first state law for the registration of architects in the United States, the purpose of which is to insure competent service to the public.

The principal speaker of the evening will be LOUIS LABEAUME, I.S.A., F.A.I.A., of St. Louis, Mo. His subject "All old fools were young fools once." Mr. LaBeaume needs no introduction to the profession since he is one of the foremost speakers and writers among the architects of America

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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 15, 1947

No. 28

## A. G. C. STATEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Members of the Governing and Advisory Boards of The Associated General Contractors of America May 21 adopted the following statement:

It is our considered judgment that:

1. Although conditions in the industry vary widely in the different sections of the country, as a general trend construction costs are reaching their peak and becoming stabilized.

2. The efficiency and economy with which the industry can operate will improve at the rate at which adjustments to new conditions are made by the entire economy.

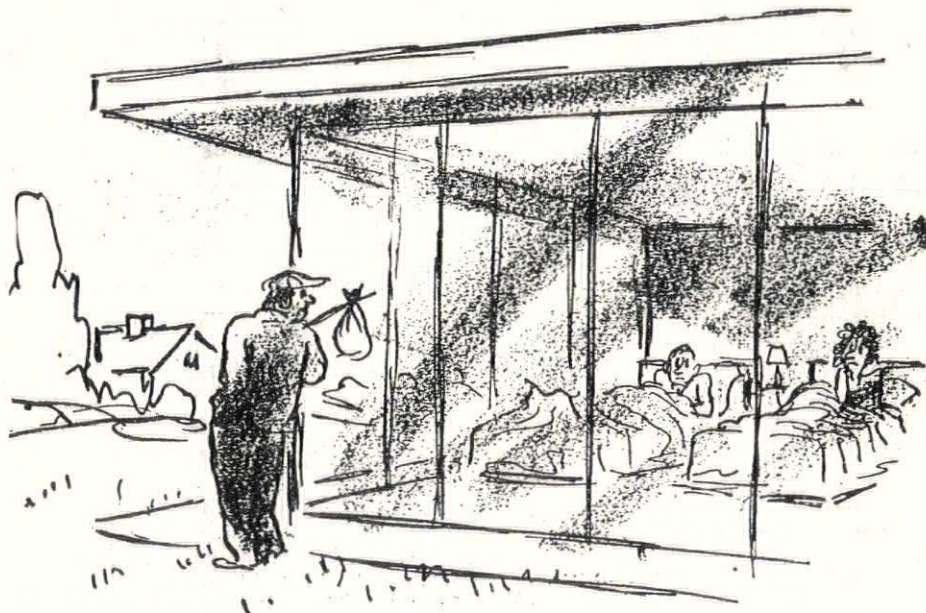
3. During a period which cannot be foreseen accurately, construction costs may decline gradually until they reach what can be considered the new normal levels.

4. In an economy which has been subjected to the inflationary pressures of World War II, construction costs generally cannot return to levels which prevailed before the war unless the nation suffers an economic catastrophe. When prices reach new normal levels they generally will be substantially above pre-war levels.

5. The public should not be led to believe that there will be quick or drastic reductions in construction costs. There may be reductions in costs of materials, but they may not be great. Decreases in wage rates are not foreseeable without a depression. Reductions in costs will come through elimination of uncertainties in business conditions, increased productivity of workmen, increased efficiency by management, and development of more economical methods of construction, and other factors. These will come about, but the changes will be gradual.

6. Buyers' resistance has developed throughout the country in construction. In part this has been the result of buyers' resistance to the prices of other services and commodities which has discouraged investment for expanded business facilities.

7. The price of projects completed to specifications of the owner is established



By Alan Dunn for ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

by the costs of construction operations for which general contractors have the central responsibility. General contractors fully recognize their responsibility to the buying public to do all within their power to hold costs to the minimum possible for the quality specified so that the public receives the maximum for its investment in construction.

8. Steps which the Governing and Advisory Boards recommend to general contractors throughout the country include the following:

(a) Where it is the normal custom of the contractor, and to the fullest extent possible, firm prices should be quoted to the owner. Contractors should require firm prices from subcontractors, and sellers of materials and machinery.

(b) Fair and just wages should be paid to workmen, and all possible steps should be taken to encourage workmen to produce a day's work for a day's pay, to maintain wage rates for agreed upon periods of time, to settle disputes without stoppage of work, to eliminate wasteful practices, and to permit the training of adequate numbers of apprentices to supply additional skilled craftsmen for the industry.

(c) All possible steps should be taken to improve efficiency of management.

(d) Where possible, owners should be discouraged from demanding the completion of projects at speeds which require overtime work at premium rates

See A. G. C.—Page 2



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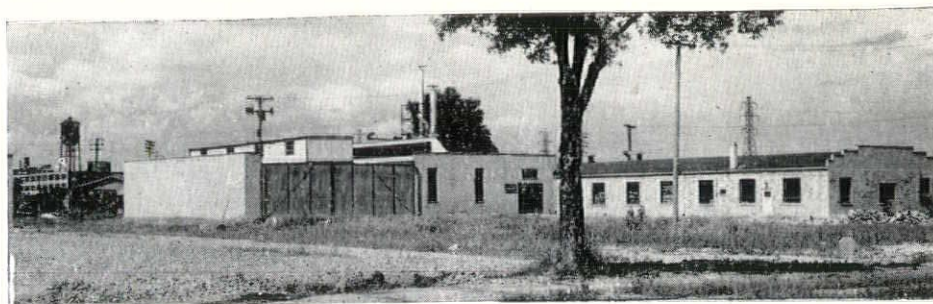
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**THE SMALL HOUSE**

The American Institute of Architects and the National Association of Home Builders are to collaborate in a joint program designed to improve the quality of low cost homes and to find ways to reduce building costs, Douglas W. Orr, president of the Institute, has announced.

"The joint committee composed of architects and home builders has been appointed to prepare a suggested program," Mr. Orr said. "With small house construction so badly needed and accounting for a major portion of the total building in the country, this collaboration should not only be very successful in speeding up the construction of small houses but could have a very beneficial effect upon the character of the structures.

"We believe that the small house field offers both an opportunity and a challenge to the architectural profession. In the past a large proportion of our small homes have been built without the services of a trained architect, with a resulting impairment of aesthetic and economic values which is quite apparent in many medium and low-cost residential areas.

"Housing is a far greater factor in determining the appearance of a community than the many fewer larger buildings, no matter how much architectural study is devoted to the latter.

"The collaboration between the Institute and the National Association of Home Builders will include meetings of local chapters or their committees, an interchange of convention speakers, and the preparation of factual information to be disseminated among the members.

"This collaboration should point the way to some methods of reduction in the cost of housing, stimulated by the contribution which can be made by the members of the architectural profession to the solution of the problems of small home construction."

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**A. G. C.—from page 1**

of pay, or procedures requiring extra costs.

9. The Associated General Contractors of America calls upon all organizations and individuals in the industry—architects, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors, producers and distributors of material and equipment, and others—to cooperate to help eliminate uncertainties from the industry and to permit operations to be carried on as quickly, efficiently and economically as possible.

10. It will take time for public recognition and understanding of the fact that construction and other costs must be higher than before the war if the national economy can operate at a level which will permit repayment of the national debt. The public should be informed that construction costs have reached their peak, that as readjustments are made in the national economy gradual increases in efficiency and economy can be brought about in construction, and that responsible elements of the industry recognize their obligations and are doing all within their power to carry out operations so that the public receives the maximum for its investment in construction.

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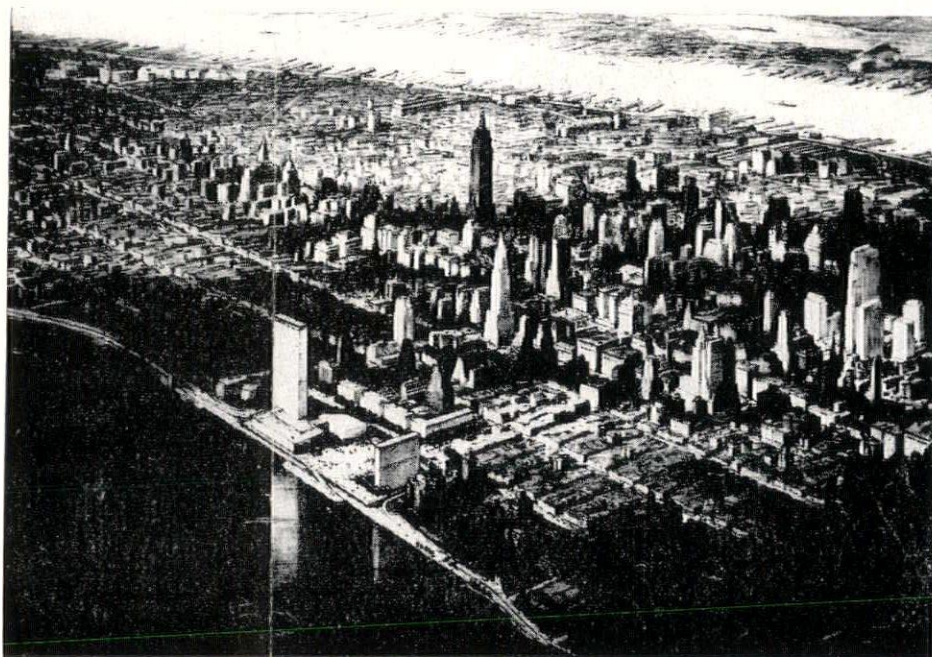
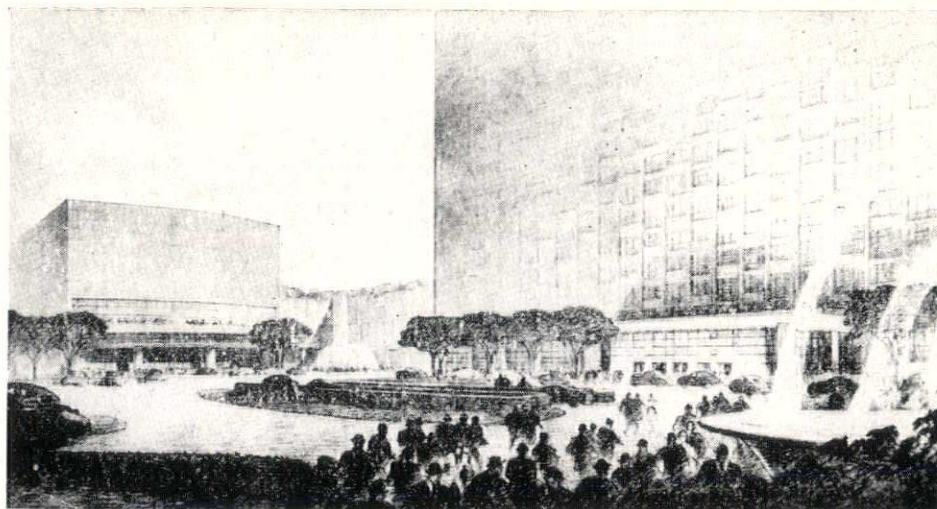
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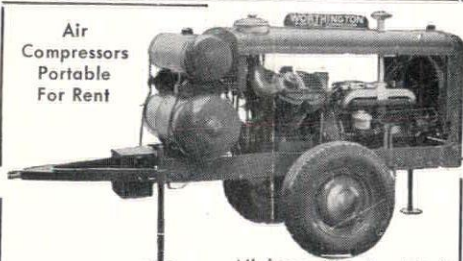


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## CONTRACT AWARDED FOR DEMOLITION OF U. N. SITE

The United Nations Headquarters Planning Office has awarded to the firm of Wreckers and Excavators, Inc., a contract for the demolition of the existing structures on the U. N. Permanent site in Manhattan at a cost of approximately \$300,000.

The leveling of the 50 odd buildings which cover most of the 18-acre site is expected to commence on Tuesday, July 8 when, at a brief ceremony, Mr. Byron Price, Assistant Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Services, will start the work by removing the first brick from a boarded-up tenement on the northeast corner of 42nd street and First avenue.

The complete job of preparing the site for the future headquarters buildings will take approximately four months.

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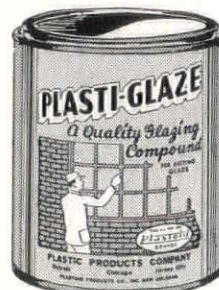
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## NEW FILING INDEX BULLETIN:

I am sending you, herewith, a copy of the revised 1947 Edition of THE A.I.A. STANDARD FILING SYSTEM AND ALPHABETICAL INDEX, together with a copy of A.I.A. document No. 172A which describes the same.

The revision of this useful document is undertaken, from time to time, in order that its classifications may reflect technological advances in the field of construction and be responsive to every reasonable filing requirement.

We believe the 1947 Edition will be found to respond more adequately to filing needs in fields not only directly related to construction generally but to activities related to the same.

An increasing number of the producers of materials, appliances, and equipment employed in construction, and related activities, are pre-marking their descriptive literature with appropriate A.I.A. File Numbers which encourages its filing and preservation for reference.

Owing to increased costs of publication the price of the 1947 Edition is \$2.00 a copy, postage paid.

There is also enclosed a copy of the recently published second edition of THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS FILING SYSTEM FOR ARCHITECTURAL PLATES AND ARTICLES.

This provides a simple method for the filing of material of this character in a way to make it readily available for reference purposes and thus avoid the wasting of time in an effort to locate a plate or article which is likely to be buried in an accumulation of architectural magazines.

The use of this new edition has been facilitated by the addition of a detailed alphabetical index, the price, however, remains at \$1.00 a copy, postage paid.—THEODORE IRVING COE, Technical Secretary, A.I.A.

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## AT PRINCETON CONFERENCE

By RICHARD J. NEUTRA

Where instituted authorities do a consistent wholesale programming, it is easy to confine the role of the designer-planner to receiving and accepting a slice of this program, and live up to it in his particular physical terms.

Whether the society which thus employs this professional be, politically speaking, tyrannical—or run by a small clique—or whether it is collective or democratic—it may well consider it as unruly and lacking in discipline, when the designing professional develops the habit to question the program.

As it is, however, in this part of the world, the programming of large communities so far is budgeted with funds so diminutive in comparison to the task, that to speak of a program or well considered guide line to be adhered to, would seem ridiculous.

Rio de Janeiro has an annual budget of \$26,000 for programming or master planning a city of two and one-half million, which in its longest dimension, stretches 65 miles. Los Angeles, until recently, had to get along on \$75,000 a year to program action for a 1,000 square mile area, and fit it into a region of accelerated, multiform development and overlapping jurisdictions. Meanwhile, a planning fee of one million dollars was paid for designing the city hall—a questionably solved task, although simple enough compared with the outlining of only a small part of a city. We do not yet grasp the cost and the responsibility.

The question, therefore, whether the planning-designing profession shall cater to a poorly considered requirement list, handed in by the owner, is in need of qualification. This is conspicuously true when the professional is commissioned by a governmental agency, where, like—say, in a housing project, his skill, training, experience, and indicative for all that, his compensation is considered and set higher than the organs employed to program his work.

Money of compensation may not all be the best scale to measure professional fitness and output, but if the executing architect is to abide by a programmatic requirement list, it certainly should, for best results, be developed by a set of professionals superior to himself.

The major brain investment is in the program, a preliminary which is fertile with potential life only if it digest all supposedly "realistic" requirements in the light and radiation of a foresight, which activate, because it is more imaginative than bound to the pedestrian statistics of the past.

In varying degree, but in essence invariably, every owner employs a planning-designing professional as his program consultant—and in the most successful cases, finds and gratefully acknowledges, that this part of the service turns out most salient.

It is shortsighted, under present circumstances of disorder in programs, to make the architect-planner simply cater to a set list of requirements and rules. His questioning them constructively cannot be substituted for by anybody else's qualifications and talent.

## BUILDING OUTLOOK

Removal of limitations on repair and maintenance of homes, stores, and most other structures will mean a substantial rise in construction activity and increased employment for building trades workers, Tyler S. Rogers, President of the Producers' Council, national organization of building product manufacturers, stated Saturday.

"Thousands of property owners have been waiting for the opportunity to undertake major repairs and improvements which had to be postponed during the war and the period of limitations," Rogers said.

"Recent reports from the Office of the Housing Expediter indicate that requests for approvals in excess of the limitations had been coming in at the rate of about 20,000 a week during recent months. Removal of restrictions means that these projects can proceed at the discretion of the owner."

"Estimates by the Council's economists indicate that in the absence of restrictions the volume of repair and maintenance will run at the rate of \$6 billion annually for several years, in view of the huge backlog of needed improvements built up as a result of past materials shortages and wartime limitations."

"The removal of limitations means that owners of industrial structures can repair and enlarge their buildings, and home owners can proceed with installation of new kitchens, bathrooms and heating plants, adding extra rooms, insulate their homes, reroofing and other major improvements."

"Unrestricted repair and maintenance are expected to provide approximately 2,000,000 jobs annually for construction and allied workers."

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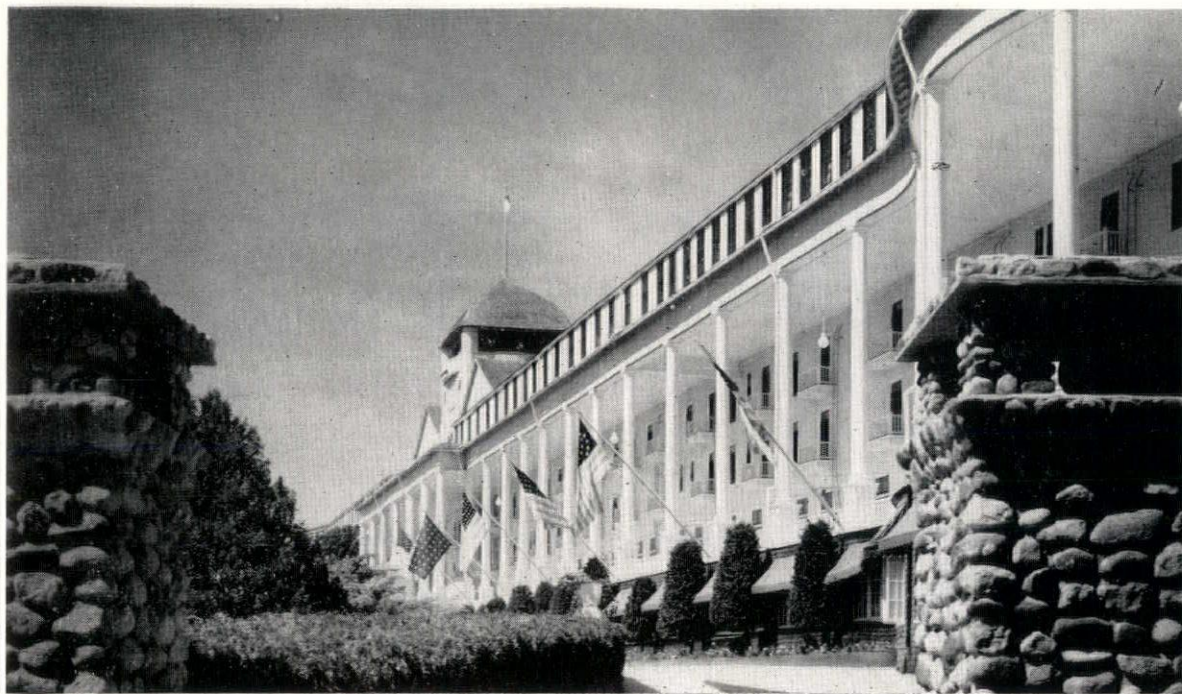
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**LONGEST PORCH AT LARGEST SUMMER HOTEL.** Now is the time for all good architects to make reservations for the Michigan Society of Architects Fourth Annual Mid-Summer Meeting at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, August 4 and 5. Make your reservations direct with the hotel, also make your own travel reservations. For those desiring plane reservations: call Mr. Keillor, Capital Airlines, CHerry 8900, extension 125.

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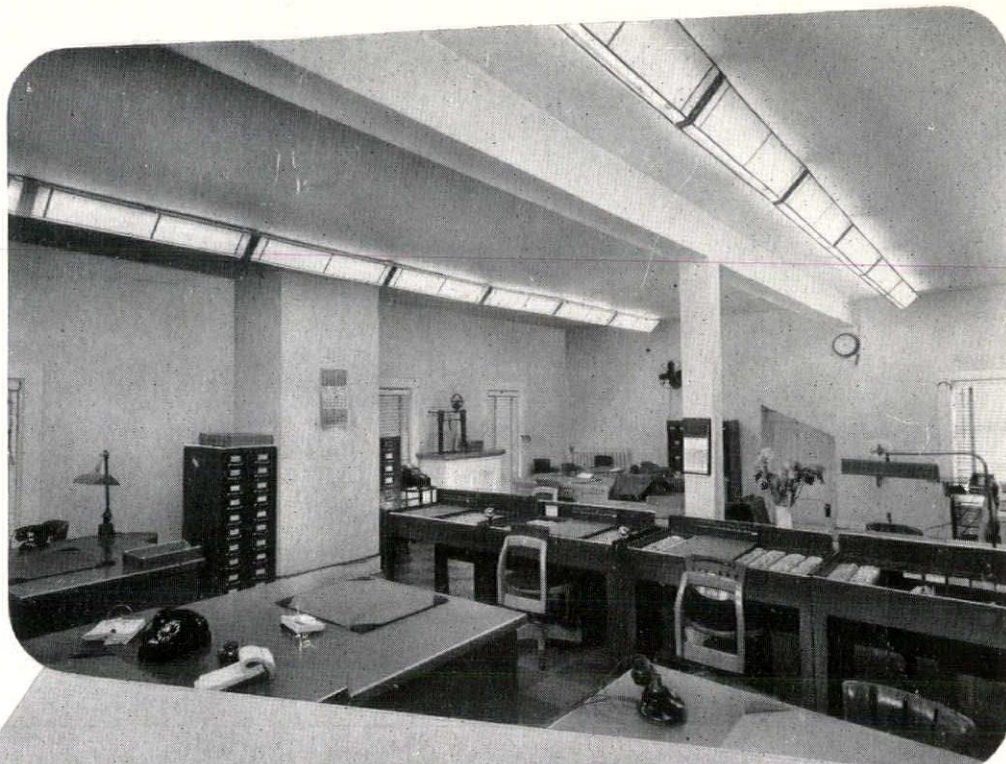
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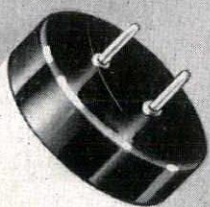


"MEETING IS ADJOURNED"—The Detroit Chapter's Ralph Walker dinner at the Detroit Athletic Club.





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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 22, 1947

No. 29

## Advocates of Modern Design Rally Strongly to the Defense of Frank Lloyd Wright

By ELIZABETH WINSTON, in the N. Y. Herald Tribune

To the New York Herald Tribune:

After reading Mr. Robert Moses' fulminations (June 8 issue "This Week") against modern architecture in general and Mr. Frank Lloyd Wright in particular, I think it is only fair to hear from the other side—that is, the men who are qualified to pass judgment and who obviously do not believe that modern architecture is a "fake."

Mr. Moses lists as "the most successful, functional houses built by two and four legged creatures out of handy, native material to ward off elements and enemies—the igloo, the South Sea hut, the beaver dam and the bird's nest." This may be true, but the civilizations that produced this form of shelter never progressed any farther. Functionalism in itself is no sign of great intelligence or progress. Originality, creativeness and emotion, over a period of time, create more than an igloo, a South Sea hut, a beaver dam or a bird's nest.

Concerning Mr. Wright, let me quote from some who are considered authorities:

1. The National Institute of Arts and Letters elected Frank Lloyd Wright with the following words: "Mr. Wright is one of America's best known architects, a pioneer of modern design."

2. "Fortune" magazine: "Of this man, who has been architecture's great single influence for forty years, Alexander Woolcott once said: 'If I were suffered to apply the word "genius" to only one living American, I would save it up for Frank Lloyd Wright.'"

3. "Art Digest" (on the design for the Museum for Non-Objective Art): "No other structure by the great modern architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, exists in New York City. He has taken full advantage of this opportunity to exercise his trail-blazing genius. From his inventive mind have come ideas which have probably changed the basic principles of museum building."

4. "Architectural Forum": "Certain artists, working in architecture, have the ability to so arrange masses, shapes, surfaces and colors that the space enclosed comes to life and the building becomes merely a vessel. Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the very few who have had the ability to do this. Everywhere, even to a considerable extent in his own country, Wright is considered the greatest living architect, and when the history books are written again he will take on the stature of a Michelangelo."

When Wright's model of the proposed Guggenheim Museum was unveiled in New York, Wright said: "This building is built like a spring. You can see how the ramp, which is coiled in the shape of a true logarithmic spiral, is one continu-

ous piece from top to bottom, integral with the outside wall and the inside balcony. When the first atomic bomb lands on New York it will not be destroyed. It may be blown a few miles up into the air, but when it comes down it will bounce!"

Basically, the statement was true, and it was a new demonstration of the confidence, vitality and architectural genius which had long since made the man world-famous. The papers and magazines confined themselves to such comfortably patronizing adjectives as "bizarre" and "strange." If this building is "strange," so is the chambered nautilus, the structure of a leaf, the wing of a bird.

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## BY TRAIN, BY PLANE, BY BOAT To Mackinac Island, August 4 and 5

Time is drawing near for the Michigan Society of Architects Fourth Annual Mid-Summer Meeting at The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, August 4 and 5. These dates are on Monday and Tuesday, but the hotel will accept reservations beginning slightly in advance and extending for a day or two after the meeting dates.

Those going from Detroit have several possibilities.

Michigan Central trains leave Detroit daily at 11:00 a.m. Also there is a train leaving Detroit on Fridays only at 5:15 p.m. The trip takes about nine hours. Returning trains leave Mackinaw City daily at 9:30 p.m., also on Sunday only at 4:30 p.m. These trains carry coaches only, no Pullmans. The round-trip fare, including tax, is \$14.01.

Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Co. have regular sailings from Detroit each Friday, Sunday and Monday. You can leave Detroit on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and arrive at the Island at 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

Returning: leave Mackinac Island at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday and arrive in Detroit at 2:00 p.m. Friday. The round-trip fare, including room and meals is \$49.00.

Capital Airlines has a regular service to Pellston, 19 miles from Mackinaw City, daily from Detroit at 9:20 a.m., arriving at Pellston 11:57 a.m., also leaving Detroit at 6:20 p.m. and arriving Pellston at 8:37 p.m. Returning you can leave Pellston at 1:49 p.m. daily and arrive Detroit 4:19 p.m. In addition, there is, during the summer months, there are planes leaving Detroit at 6:30 p.m. Friday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Round-trip fare is \$32.66, including tax. From Pellston there is taxi service at \$2.50 per person, each way.

Make your reservations now direct with the hotel and for transportation, unless you are going by private conveyance. In writing the hotel, be sure to mention the M. S. A. Convention, as special rates prevail.



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**TWO NEW CITIES RISE  
FROM SWAMP AND SLUM**

From a real jungle and from a jungle of slums, railroad tracks and civic decay, two new cities—one in South, one in North America—are rising. Cidade dos Motores, designed by Paul Lester Wiener and Jose Luis Sert, is a completely new city being built on reclaimed swampy lowland in the heart of a jungle near Rio de Janeiro; the Michael Reese Hospital Project, a slum clearance program for Chicago's South Side, is headed by Reginald R. Isaacs with Walter Gropius as Architectural Consultant and Walter H. Blucher Planning Consultant.

How the same principles of modern architecture and city planning can be successfully applied to solve such contrasting problems is shown in **TWO CITIES: PLANNING IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA**, an exhibition of drawings, maps, photographic enlargements and models at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. The exhibition, directed by Susanne Wasson-Tucker, will close September 21 and will then be sent by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions on a tour of other cities.

The cities we live in today were built yesterday, and many yesterdays ago. Although great sections of them have been blighted by industrialization, its benefits have never been applied to serve and improve human life on a large-city scale. Today's planning for the cities of tomorrow, however, concerns itself with the life of men and is based on the human, not on the geographical or political concept. The four basic functions of all communities: dwelling, recreation, work and transportation are coordinated in the community plan.

The two community plans that form this exhibition employ modern principles, yet, due to the different requirements of climate, customs and standards of living, the two cities now rising are strikingly different. Cidade dos Motores, or Motor City, is designed around an airplane engine factory built during the war and a tractor factory to be added. The city will eventually consist of four neighborhoods and a civic center serving a total population of around 25,000. The entire project is keyed to the individual, providing all his daily needs within easy walking distance, the average distance to the civic center being less than a quarter of a mile. Each neighborhood unit, in addition to its housing facilities, has its own network of social services, such as kindergarten, school, playgrounds, clinics, cafeteria, and community club for adults.

Cidade dos Motores comprises roughly 250 acres. The redevelopment program for Chicago's once fashionable South Side comprises *seven square miles* and is a unique and long-term plan for the complete rebirth of a blighted urban area. The difference between the North and South American plans is necessarily as great as the difference in the size of the two communities.

Chicago's South Side has become a slum classic. The inflexible gridiron pat-

tern of the narrow streets, a misguided attempt to create urban order, closes in the crowded old houses with heavy, hazardous traffic. Relics of past grandeur, ghost-houses have been divided and re-divided into cramped, dark, slum apartments, dangerously overcrowded with a constantly increasing, largely Negro population, which is confined within a limited zone, because of restrictions.

Scattered throughout this residential squalor are dingy industrial areas, and surrounding the whole is the random network of railroads. The entire section had deteriorated so badly since the founding of Michael Reese Hospital in 1882 that its Board was seriously considering moving to a new site. Unable, however, to find any location that would be proof against future blight, and unwilling to abandon ten million dollars' worth of buildings and equipment, the hospital decided to stay, build a great medical center and improve living conditions.

To help make possible this program the differing racial, religious and political elements of the area were persuaded to work together by the Michael Reese Hospital and the Illinois Institute of Technology who were largely responsible for the establishment of the South Side Planning Board. This nonprofit community organization is cooperating for a dream of the future: the relocation of industries, railroads and streets, new housing, playgrounds and proper shopping and cultural provisions for the entire seven-square-mile district under consideration—adream of comfort and beauty in all physical aspects unlike Cidade dos Motores but identical with it in demonstrating that the city is (or should and can be) made for man and not man for the city.

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#### Residence Requirements:

Any citizen of the United States is eligible to apply. All non-resident applicants must become residents of the City of Detroit within ninety days from date of certification. Non-resident applicants must file with their certifications the following statement: "I hereby certify that within ninety

days after I am certified and appointed to a regular position in the classified service of the City of Detroit, I will establish a bona fide residence within the corporate limits of the City of Detroit." Failure to establish residence required will be grounds for revocation of eligibility and certification.

#### General Requirements:

Applications must be made on an official blank which may be obtained at the offices of this Commission, 16th Floor, Water Board Building, 735 Randolph Street, Detroit 26, Michigan, on or before one week prior to the date of the examination. All applicants must be of good health, habits and moral character.

Minimum entrance qualifications in the specifications are to be interpreted as the requirements of successful applicants, and not as restricting the right of any person to be examined who otherwise meets the requirements as set forth above.

All examinations will be public, free and competitive to all citizens of the United States who conform to the specific limitations as provided. Applicants will be admitted to the written test only upon presentation of the official notice obtained through acceptance of application.

In addition to the written test, this examination will include an evaluation of experience and training based on investigation and/or personal interview. Recency of experience may be considered in the evaluation. Medical and/or physical examination may be required of all candidates who are successful in the other subjects of the examinations.

#### Subjects and Weights of Examination

1. Tests in knowledge of subject (written test) ..... 50%
  2. Practical or academic education and training ..... 30%
  3. Character, reputation, veracity, physical condition, etc. .... 10%
  4. Experience in this or similar work ..... 10%
  5. \*Military service ..... (1 to 15%)
- \*Persons with legal residence of two years in Detroit are entitled to added points based on length and character of their service in the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war.

#### Duties Statement:

Under general direction, to plan, coordinate and supervise the work of the several design sections of a city planning division engaged in preparing and administering a master plan and preparing landscape design plans and other similar activities; and to perform related work as required.

#### Typical Examples of Work Performed:

In accordance with established policies, subject to review of results, but with considerable responsibility for procedures, progress, adequacy, and technical competency of the work:

Planning, supervising and coordinating the work of the landscape design, master plan, current planning, and other similar sections each of which has a defined sphere of activity and separate staffs with supervision, by:

Assigning work, establishing objectives and schedules for each section; establishing standard policies and methods common to all sections; explaining to section heads the nature and scope of assignments, possible lines of approach, order of procedure and phases that must be currently emphasized; conferring with section heads as problems arise and the work progresses, suggesting sources of information, seeing that duplication and conflict is avoided, that plans prepared by the various sections are properly coordinated and that they progress so as to be of greatest mutual benefit to each section requiring the work of others; reviewing the planning assignments, studies and reports in process and on completion for adequacy and conformity to policies and established standards; comparing performances with schedules; evaluating and reporting on performance of subordinates; approving requisition of materials and supplies for the division; reporting on progress of the sections as the work requires; shifting subordinates between design sections as

necessary; recommending additions to or reduction of force; taking minor disciplinary actions giving talks on the nature and progress of the master plan; conferring with public officials, business and civic groups on various aspects of the work of the division.

#### Minimum Entrance Qualifications:

Education equivalent to graduation from a university of recognized standing with specialization in fields relating to city planning design; reasonable experience in administering the preparation of design plans, preferably in preparing a master plan for a large municipality, considerable familiarity with management principles and practices; a reasonable understanding of economic, sociological and physical sciences and of engineering and/or architectural practices as they apply to city planning; considerable ability to analyze management problems, to direct and coordinate several activities, and to secure tangible results on schedule; demonstrated ability to supervise design work; reasonable ability to write reports; good command of English; considerable tact and diplomacy in dealing with subordinates and others; integrity; initiative and resourcefulness in carrying out work programs; no disabling impairments of vision, hearing, speech, or members.

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**LA SALLE HOTEL CALLED  
 ONE OF SAFEST NOW**

The "blue stocking" coroner's jury which investigated the disastrous La Salle hotel fire a year ago—in which 61 died—has reported that the hotel, which reopened June 20, is one of the safest in the country.

"The hotel has gone much farther than we had expected in improved fire safety devices and construction," said Sheldon Clark, jury foreman and board chairman of Sinclair Oil Co.

Roy Steffens, general manager of the La Salle, conducted the jurors through the building to show them the enclosed stair wells, the fire-resistant doors, and other improvements built.

The jurors had made 21 specific recommendations for improvements in all hotels in the city to prevent another such tragedy, and the city council amended fire ordinances to confirm with their recommendations. The jurors had promised that they would meet on the anniversary of the fire—which was yesterday—and see whether their recommendations had been carried out.

**Set June 20 Deadline**

Accordingly, the jurors met with Coroner A. L. Brodie at a luncheon yesterday at the Morrison hotel to talk things over.

They learned that the city building department has set June 20 as deadline for all hotels to submit specifications for improvements to conform with the new laws which go into effect July 1. Among the new provisions are for enclosed stair wells, fire doors on each floor which will withstand fire for one hour, fireproof walls, and sprinkler systems in all store rooms.

**Check New Codes**

They appointed a committee of three of their members to check on the new city fire codes to see that they conform to the hotel safety recommendations of national fire prevention agencies. Members of the committee are Maurice Webster, architect; A. N. Baltzer, executive director of the National Safety Council; and Thomas Sanderson, consulting engineer.

Other members of the jury who inspected the La Salle hotel were: William Dewey, president of Edgewater Beach hotel; Warren A. Cook, safety engineer; Leonard Hicks, general manager of the Morrison; Robert C. Van Kampen, publisher; Robert Koch of Marshall Field & Co.

Two jurors who were absent were Jerrold Loeb, architect, who was out of town; and Earl McMahon, engineer, who was ill.

**CHICAGO U. BUILDS**

The first unit in the University of Chicago's proposed two-million dollar faculty housing project and the second peg in its postwar expansion program will be constructed immediately, William B. Harrell, business manager of the university, announced recently.

The faculty housing project, as envisaged for the future, will cover one city block and will consist of five eight-story elevator buildings with penthouses, ten three-story walk-ups, a public garage, and landscaped terraces and courts.

Philip B. Maher is the architect.

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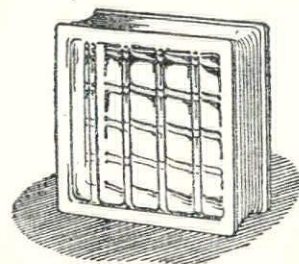
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WEEKLY



BULLETIN

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1947 JUL 30 AM 8:47  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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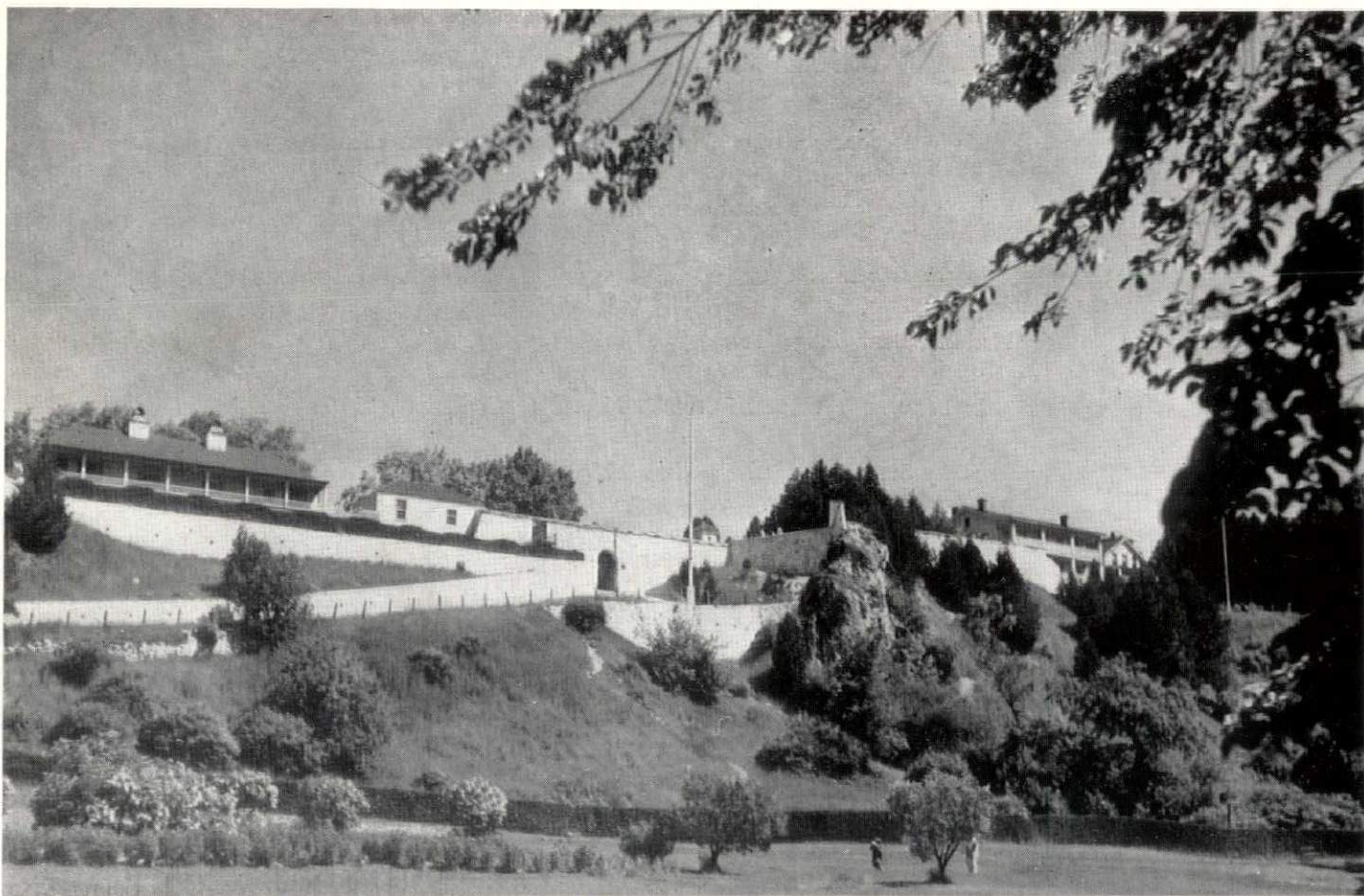
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Volume 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 29, 1947

No. 30

## M.S.A. FOURTH ANNUAL MID-SUMMER MEETING



**Mackinac Island, Michigan, August 4 and 5, 1947**



## *R. E. LEGGETTE COMPANY*

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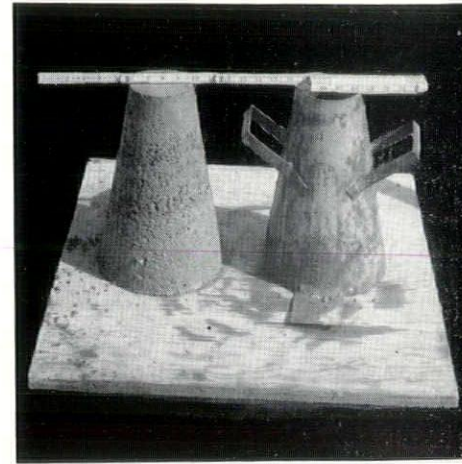
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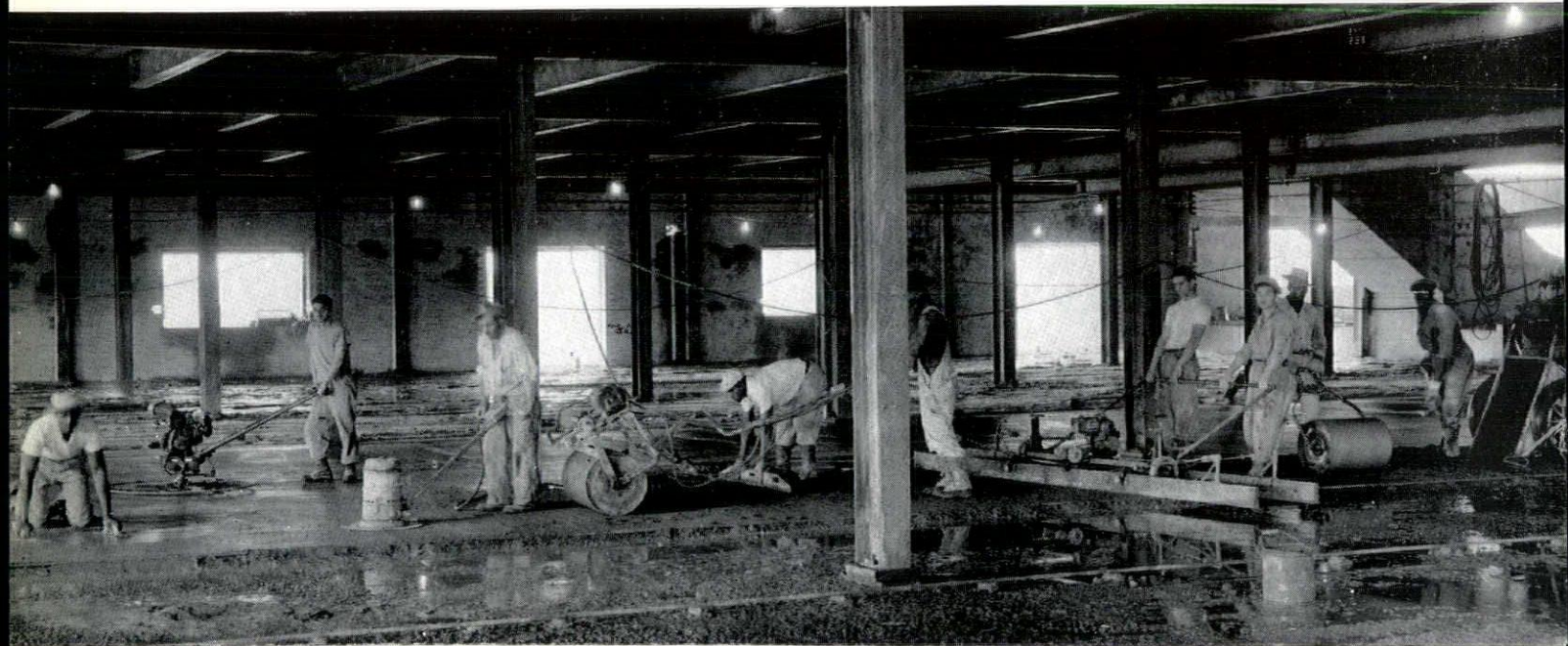
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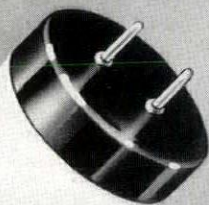
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## Program

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

### 4th Annual Mid-Summer Meeting

THE GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND

August 4 and 5, 1947

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Arrival of Delegates at Hotel—Registration—No Fee.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Continuation of Registration.

2:30 P.M.—Luncheon Hour (No Program).

2:00 P.M.—Opening Meeting of the Board of Directors.

President Adrian N. Langius Presiding.

Opportunity for members to speak from the Floor.

3:30 P.M.—Business Session of the Society.

Subject: The Small House Problem.

Earl W. Pellerin, Vice-President, Conducting.

Speaker: Alden B. Dow.

Participants: Paul A. Brysselbout, Paul A. Flanagan, William A. Stone.

Discussion.

5:30 P.M.—President's Cocktail Party.

7:00 P.M.—Dinner, Main Dining Room—No Program.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

10:00 A.M.—Business Session.

Subject: Unification of the Profession in Michigan.

Julian R. Cowin, Vice-President, Conducting.

Speaker: Branson V. Gamber, F. A. I. A., State Association Director of the A. I. A.

Participants: Wells I. Bennett, F. A. I. A., President, Detroit Chapter, A. I. A.; Robert B. Frantz, President, Saginaw Valley Chapter, A. I. A.; Phillip C. Haughey, President, Grand Rapids Chapter, A. I. A.

Discussion of Federal Hospital Construction Program in Michigan.

12:30 P.M.—Luncheon Hour—No Program.

3:20 P.M.—Business Session.

Subject: Registration and Reciprocity.

Robert B. Frantz, Vice-President of the Society, President of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A. I. A., and Member of Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Presiding.

Speaker: Warren D. Miller, President, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Participants: Clyde C. Paton, President of the Michigan State Board, Wells I. Bennett and Andrew R. Morison, Board Members.

Adjournment.



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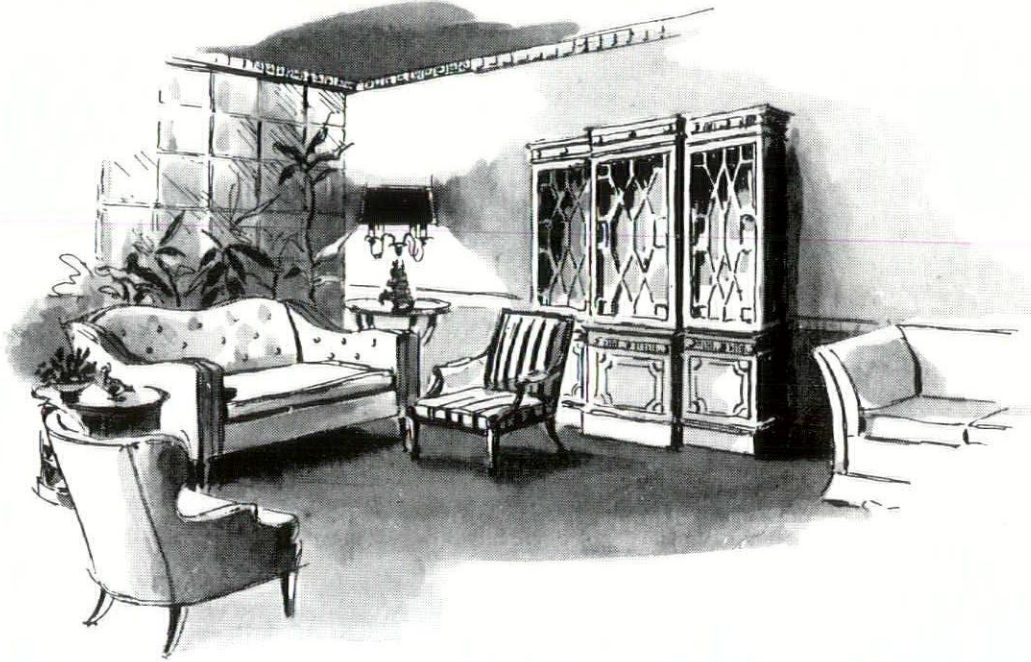
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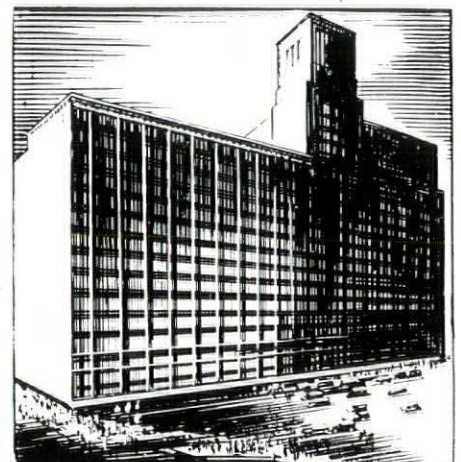
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# HUDSON'S DETROIT





# FOURTH ANNUAL MID-SUMMER CONVENTION AT GRAND HOTEL

Monday and Tuesday, August 4 and 5, 1947

When members of the Michigan Society of Architects convene at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island next month it will mark the second occasion of the Mid-Summer "Little Convention" since World War II. Last year an estimate of fifty was given the hotel, and attendance was over 150. While these meetings have been considered as under the sponsorship of Upper Peninsula architects, it was regrettable last year that none from that area was present. This was because of illness of David E. Anderson and Derrick Hubert.

Besides these two, there are Harry Gjelsteen and Gothard Arntzen, and Ralph Bauer, who is not in the Upper Peninsula but near there.

Transportation can be had from Detroit by Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company steamer, by New York Central Railway or by Capital Airlines. Of course, the roads are perfect for driving. Reservations should be made direct with the companies, and with the Grand Hotel.

As the hotel operates on the American plan, there will be no scheduled luncheons or dinners of the architects' group. Instead, members and their families will be assigned to an area in the regular dining room, where they will all be together.

It was hoped that Kenneth C. Black, of Lansing, our newly elected Director of the Institute's Great Lakes District would be present and take part in the program, but he has sent his regrets, stating that he will be attending a meeting of the AIA Committee on Urban Planning in Washington at that time. However, Branson V. Gamber, of Detroit, State Association Director of the Institute, will attend and speak on the subject of Unification. Other officers and directors of the Institute have been invited.

Certainly, the members of the Producers Council will be welcome, as they have always added so much to the enjoyment of such meetings.

## Small House

The Convention will begin with an open meeting of the Board of Directors, to which members are invited. This will afford an opportunity for members to see how their Board works and to take part in one of its meetings. This meeting has not been scheduled until Monday afternoon, to allow for some late arrivals. Also Monday afternoon, immediately following the Board meeting, the remainder of the time will be devoted to the Small House Problem. Last Year practically a whole session was devoted to this subject and the Society went on record as favoring a more active participation on the part of members, in the low-cost housing field. At that time it was stated as a policy that architects should provide more service in this endeavor, and not less, as had seemed to be the tendency.

This meeting will be in charge of the Society's Committee on Education and Research, consisting of Alden B. Dow, Chairman, Paul A. Brysselbout, Paul A. Flanagan, Earl W. Pellerin and William A. Stone. Pellerin will conduct, while Dow will be the principal speaker. It is

expected that this Committee will make known its plans for a small-house competition and exhibition that will, as Dow has expressed it, "Really put the Society on the map." It is suggested that each member of the Society be required to enter the competition to design a house for himself, and to cost not to exceed \$4,500. The penalty for not entering would be \$100. The material would be used in an exhibition to be sent around

## M. S. A. PRESIDENT



**ADRIAN N. LANGIUS, A. I. A.,** of Lansing, President of the Michigan Society of Architects, will preside at the sessions at The Grand Hotel. He has issued a call to members and their families to attend this Fourth Annual Mid-Summer Meeting.

the state, and as designs would have to be signed, the architect would be put on the spot, so to speak, in his own community. Some of the houses are to be built and offered for sale.

Pellerin has been in negotiations with Convention Hall in Detroit, looking toward holding the exhibition there, to start. It is expected that a most creditable showing could thus be made, and that it could take on importance second only to the Builders Show or the Automobile Show.

## Unification

The second session of the Convention will be on Tuesday morning, with Julian R. Cowin, of Detroit, Vice-President of the Society, conducting. The subject will be Unification of the Profession in Michigan, and the speaker will be Branson V. Gamber, F.A.I.A., of Detroit. Gamber,

as State Association Director of the A.I.A., has given years of study to this problem, and Michigan is now on the verge of taking the final step in this matter, under his able direction.

Others speakers will be Wells I. Bennett, F.A.I.A., President of the Detroit Chapter, Robert B. Frantz, President of the Saginaw Valley Chapter and Phillip C. Haughey, President of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the Institute. These speakers will give the views of their respective chapters.

## Unification Plans of Four States

Briefly, the plans of several state associations are as follows:—In Pennsylvania, the A.I.A. is recognized and accepted as the national professional organization, providing for including within the A.I.A. of 48 State units. In the present organization the five existing local chapters are giving up their charters as granted by the A.I.A. in favor of the new State Association as named above. Under this plan one membership makes the architect a member of (a) the local chapter; (b) the Pennsylvania Association of Architects; (c) The American Institute of Architects.

In Florida the adopted plan accepts the A.I.A. as the Parent Organization. The Florida Association of Architects is the State Chapter of the A.I.A. The State Chapter is divided into three Districts (local) Chapters, and subject to further division as may be desired. Each District Chapter is composed of corporate, associate, junior associate and student associate members. Individual architects, in the separate districts, not wishing to join their District Chapters may join the Florida Association of Architects as associate members, enjoying all privileges excepting voting on Institute matters. The President and Secretary-Treasurer are elected at annual meetings of the State Chapter. The Vice-Presidents and Directors are elected by the District Chapters.

In California they have established the California Council of Architects, as the State organization, to coordinate the activities of all architectural societies within the state, and it is a non-profit body. The constituent members of this Council are the District Chapters. In its initial organization the Northern California Association of Architects and the Southern California Association of Architects shall be District Chapters of the Council. When an architectural organization has qualified as a District Chapter of the Council, the present Association affected thereby shall then cease to function in the territory assigned to such District Chapter, and when all the initial organization territory is included within District Chapters, the present Association shall cease to exist. Representation in the Council shall be by delegates from each District Chapter; the number determined by Chapter membership.

The Architects Society of Ohio is now the chartered A.I.A. State organization. The six existing A.I.A. Chapters retain their A.I.A. charters and maintain an independent relationship to the Institute in Washington. Each A.I.A. Chapter

*Continued on page 11*



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**FOURTH ANNUAL (from page 9)**

elects a director and an alternate to the State Society. These directors, together with the officers, constitute the Board of Directors of the State Society. Each A.I.A. Chapter collects the entire state dues, and sends to the State Society the portion prescribed as its dues. Standing committees of the State Society are composed of one member from each A.I.A. Chapter. All members of all A.I.A. Chapters vote for officers of the State Society.

**Reciprocity**

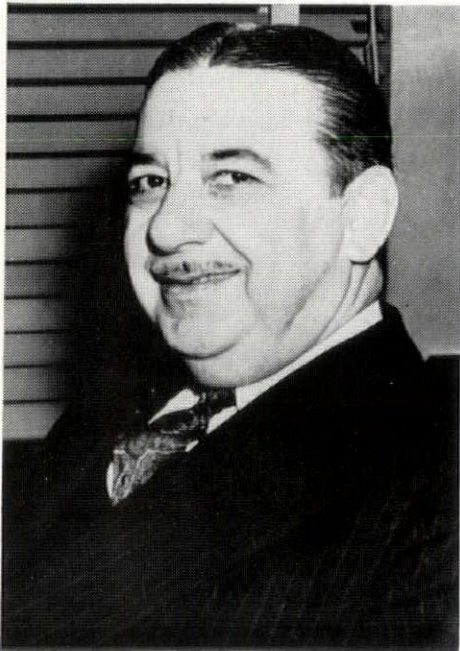
The third and final business session will be held Tuesday afternoon and will be devoted to the subject of State and National Registration, Reciprocity, etc. It will be presided over by Robert B. Frantz, of Saginaw, President of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A.I.A., a Vice-President of the Society and member of the Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

The speaker will be Mr. Warren D. Miller, A.I.A., President of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Mr. Miller is from Terre Haute, Ind. Other participants will be Clyde R. Paton, President of the Michigan Board, and Messrs. Bennett and Morison, other Board members.

The N.C.A.R.B. Executive Committee is holding a pre-convention meeting jointly with the Michigan Board at the Grand Hotel on Sunday, August 3.

**Entertainment**

Not all of the time will be taken up with serious business meetings. Between sessions, evenings and after adjournment there will be much good fellowship, recreation and entertainment. For instance,

**ALLEN**

last year the ladies of the Convention voted Roger Allen, the then President, the one with whom they'd rather be stranded on Mackinac Island, at the cocktail hour, and then men elected Gus Langius as the one most likely to succeed Allen. Sure enough he did and so the

"President's Cocktail Party" will be repeated this year. It should be explained that while it started out as the President's function, Messrs. Davis and Martin of the Portland Cement Association came forward with a proposal that they put it on. Through their generosity, it was still known as the President's.



**WARREN D. MILLER**  
of Terre Haute, Ind.,  
was elected President  
of the National Council  
of Architectural Reg-  
istration Boards at its  
25th Annual Conven-  
tion in Grand Rapids,  
April 27.

He succeeds Solis Sei-  
ferth, of New Orleans,  
Louisiana.



**ALDEN B. DOW** will be the principal speaker  
at the Convention's opening session.

## MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GRAND HOTEL

Mackinac Island, situated in the Straits of Mackinac which connect Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, lays claim to being one of the finest summer resorts in the country. There is a great natural beauty on the island and its historic past and legendary lore make it an ideal convention site. Trails for hikers and carriages for the less eager make the tiny island retreat available to all convention goers.

The focal point is the Grand Hotel which is indeed befitting of its name. It is one of the famous summer hotels of the country, situated on a high elevation facing the Straits. There are four stories to the Hotel and every room is an outside one with views of either the lake and bluffs or the gardens. Electric ele-



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vators and a telephone in each room make them accessible and communication perfect. From its famous great porch and colonnade, two blocks long, may be viewed the beautiful gardens, swimming pool and recreation grounds. Every comfort is available within the hotel proper and the village offers many shops in which to browse. The Casino will be the scene of the convention sessions and the Blue Room will be a favorite, for here will be informal dancing and entertainment during the week. There is a colorful sports club house with its snack bar where the golfer may relax. The odd shaped swimming pool has a new sandy beach.

In fact, the Grand Hotel and its staff offer every modern convenience for comfort and entertainment which will combine to make a perfect convention week.

Interesting is the fact that the famed Grand Hotel was designed by George D. Mason, FAIA. It was built in 1887 by Mr. John Oliver Plank, distinguished hotel operator. His associates included Commander Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. Chauncey Depew, Mr. George Pullman, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the D & C Navigation Company.

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## THE ARCHITECTURE OF MACKINAC ISLAND

It Holds a Special Interest for Members Attending the Summer Convention

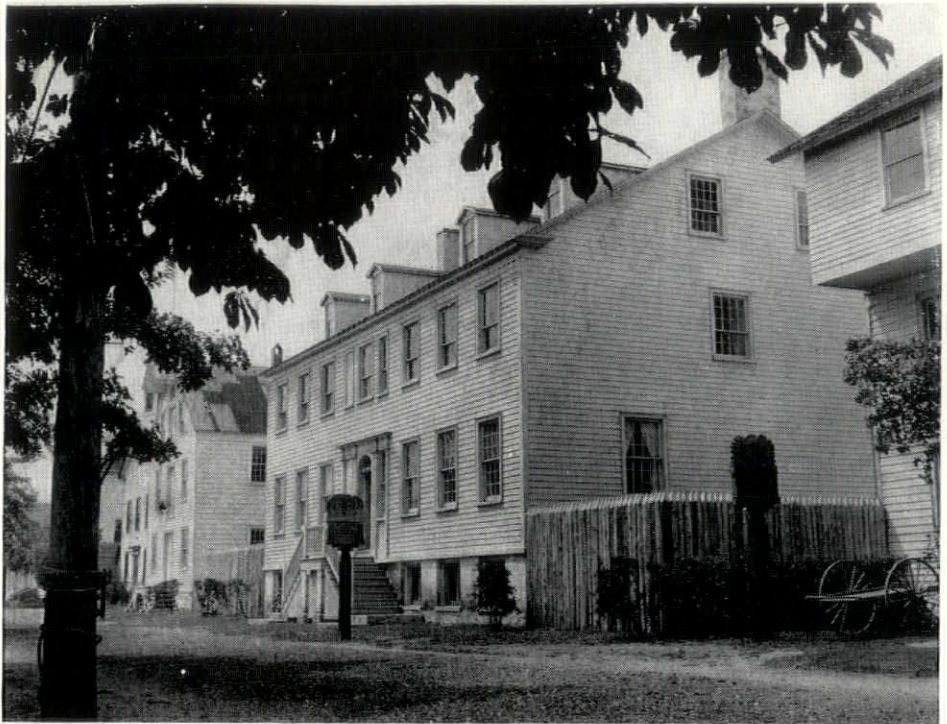
By Warren L. Ridge

Member A.I.A. Committee on Historic Buildings

Of greatest interest to Architects at Mackinac Island are not the lobbies and casinos of the Grand Hotel nor its beautiful sunken gardens and beach pool, intriguing and lovely as these are; nor yet the carriage drives through virgin timber accented by curious and unrivalled rock formations; nor still the matchless purity of the air or the supreme beauty of the Straits viewed from Fort Holmes at the "top of the Island"; but it is the buildings, the architecture, steeped in the earliest history of the Northwest, that stirs the interest and catches the imagination.

Mackinac was a thriving community when the remainder of Michigan, except the settlement at Detroit, was a howling wilderness. It was, moreover, a factor in the diplomacy of nations. Its furs were bartered in the markets of Europe and the control of its forests was contested by three nations over a period of 180 years. Though decreed by the Treaty of 1783 following the Revolutionary War to lie within the boundary of the United States, the English continued to occupy Fort Michilimackinac until 1796. They regained it on July 12, 1812, by surprising the small American garrison—who thus gained their first knowledge that a state of war between the two countries existed.

After 1815, when the Treaty of Ghent had again restored Mackinac to our country, the organized business of the fur trade was rapidly developed. Under John Jacob Astor, there was located on the Island the headquarters of a vast



EMIL LORCH, F.A.I.A., has been named consultant for the State's program of restoration of such architecture on Mackinac Island as the old Astor House and Biddle House.

of the Gothic and little of the Victorian influence. There are columned houses facing old Haldimand Bay that were built before Michigan had gained statehood.

The Old Mission Church, built in 1829-30 by the protestant mission to the Indians, is a dignified example of a simple New England Colonial meeting house. It has never suffered a "remodeling." The pulpit, bow pews, balcony and Sunday School room in the lower story are all as first designed and completed by the missionaries. It is regrettable that the sturdy tower, framed as is the church of beautiful white pine timbers, has suffered the loss of its balustrade. The spindles, weakened by a century of buffeting by wind and weather, were blown off during the September storms of 1940. It is one of the plans of the new Park and Harbor Commission to restore this detail as a part of its reconstruction work.

There is preserved on the Island, as the last monument of the great fur industry of the Northwest, the old headquarters buildings of the American Fur Company. It is the hope and dream of those who love Mackinac that this group may be restored while this is still possible. The buildings consist of the ell-shaped warehouse at the left of the group, the central administrative and living quarters, and the clerks' quarters at the right. They have been tied together by regrettable additions to better serve the purpose of a hotel, but now serve the village as space for the library and community hall. The main building was built before 1822 and will bear close inspection as to its entrance, stairway, and moldings. The frame of the great warehouse has been terribly mutilated but so can be better studied as to its joints and bracings.

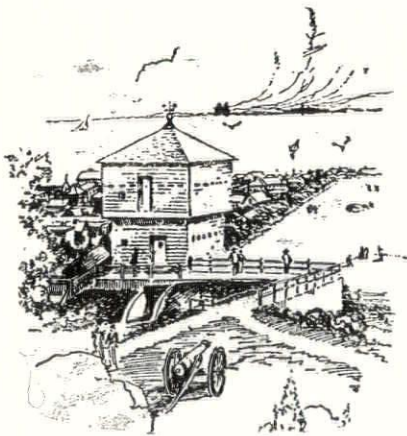
No discussion of the Island architecture would be complete without mention

of the white-washed buildings dominating the town from the heights of Fort Mackinac. Of special interest is the Officers' Stone Quarters with its massive four foot thick walls and arched chimneys. It was started by the old British Commandant Patrick Sinclair when he transferred Fort Michilimackinac from the main land in 1780-81. The details of its doorways, mantels, and other moldings is deserving of careful study.

Other buildings of interest facing the Parade Ground are the Guard House, built over the original stone dungeon of Patt Sinclair; the Officers' Wood Quarters adjacent, with its fine chimneys and wood mantel; and the Post Hospital facing the green from the west. This building dates from 1828 and contains interesting features of mantels, doors, and sash. It has recently been converted to a modern hospital and serves the purpose for the entire Island during the summer season. Both the hospital and the Wood Quarters buildings are constructed of logs which have been sided over on the exterior.

Special mention should be made of the three stone blockhouses of Fort Mackinac. Although labeled "Built by the British in 1780," they were actually constructed under the American occupation of the Fort during the years 1798 to 1800. The upper story of each is of squared timbers and the framing of the floors with their overhangs is different in each building.

So much for a sketch outline of the architecture of the Island. There is a saying that "To know Mackinac is to love it," and I have learned from repeated visits and study over a period of many years that this is true. So, Architects of Michigan, plan to stay over after the busy convention sessions and give the "Magic Isle" an opportunity to penetrate its lure into your soul.



fur gathering enterprise. The American Fur Company in its heyday about 1832, had absolute control of an annual business approaching three millions of dollars. During the spring of the year when the Indians and trappers brought in their winter catch, there was housed and employed at the Island an army of four hundred clerks.

It was during this period of opulence that the civil architecture of the Island was built, and it was the decline of the fur trade after 1935 that stopped all prosperity and all further building. Thus the architecture was preserved to us in its Greek Revival purity—with no taint

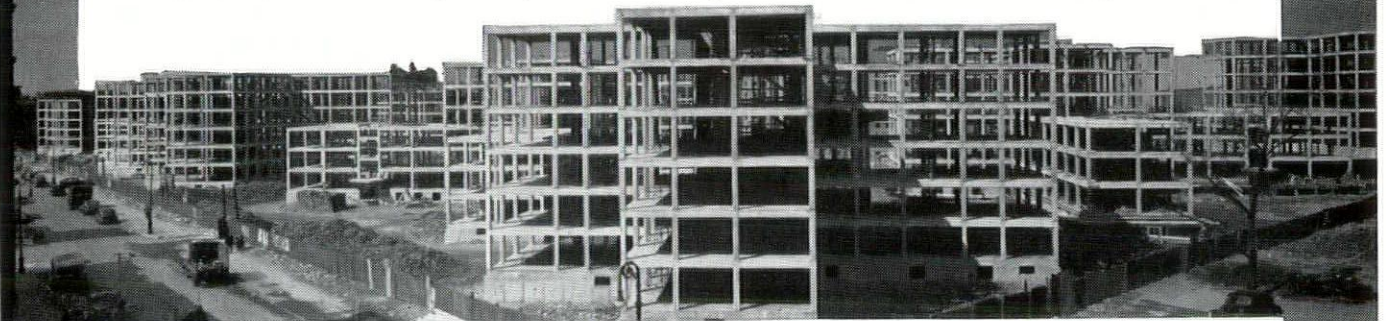


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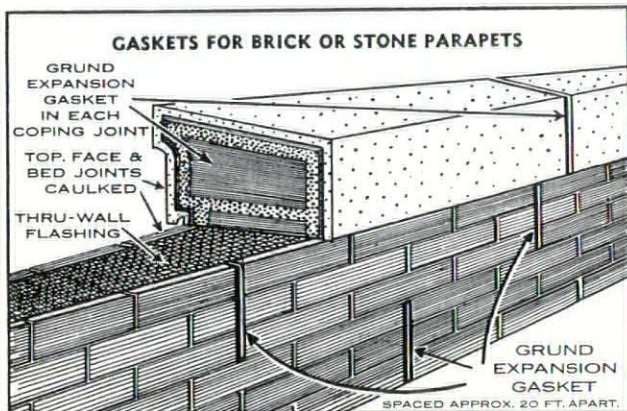
The project, owned and operated by the New York City Housing Authority, includes 1,338 dwelling units to house an estimated 5,175 residents. Frederick G. Frost, architect. Fred N. Severud, engineer.

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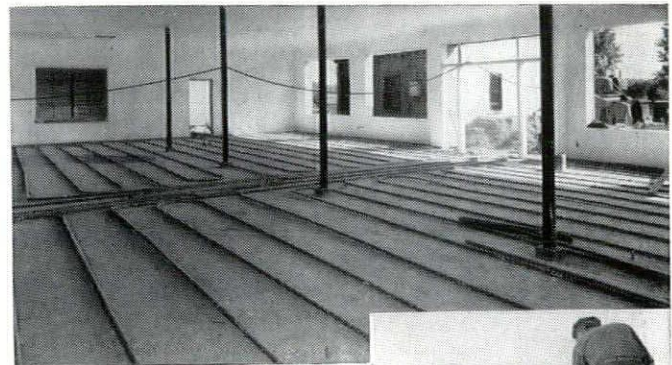
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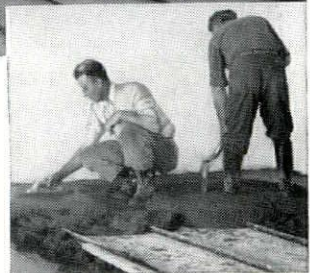


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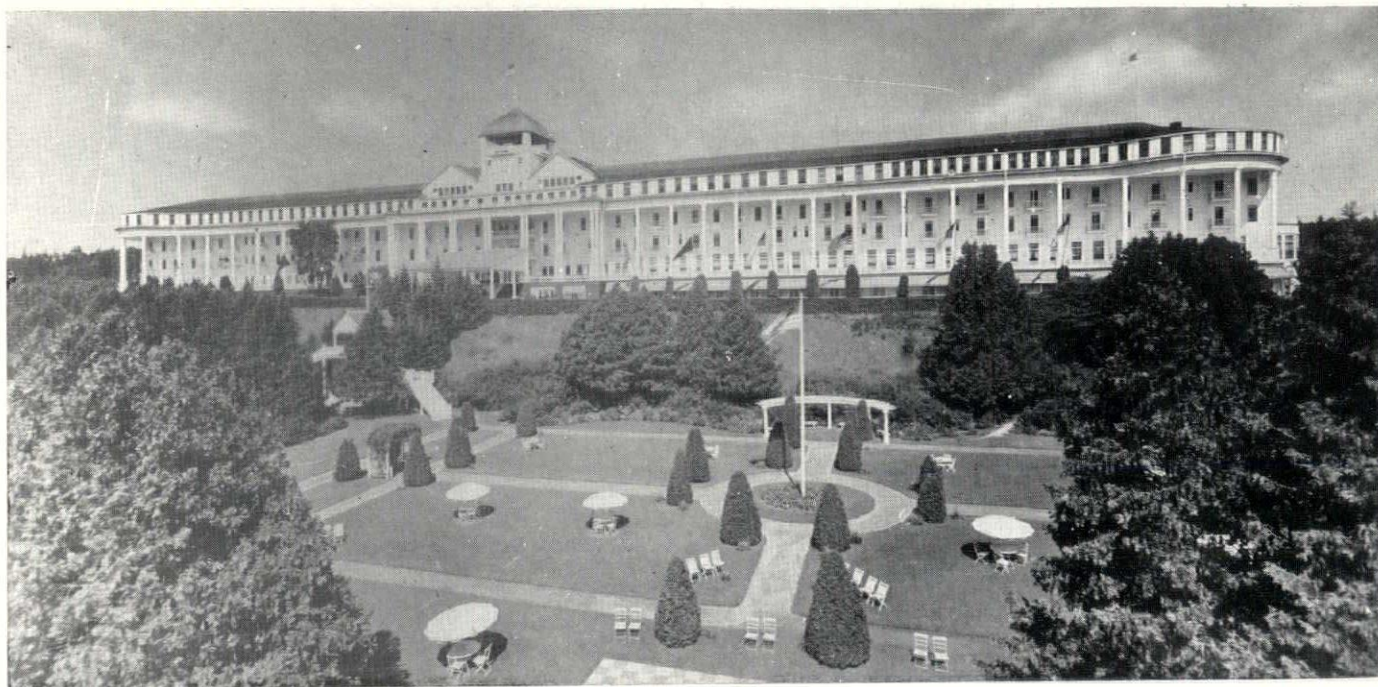


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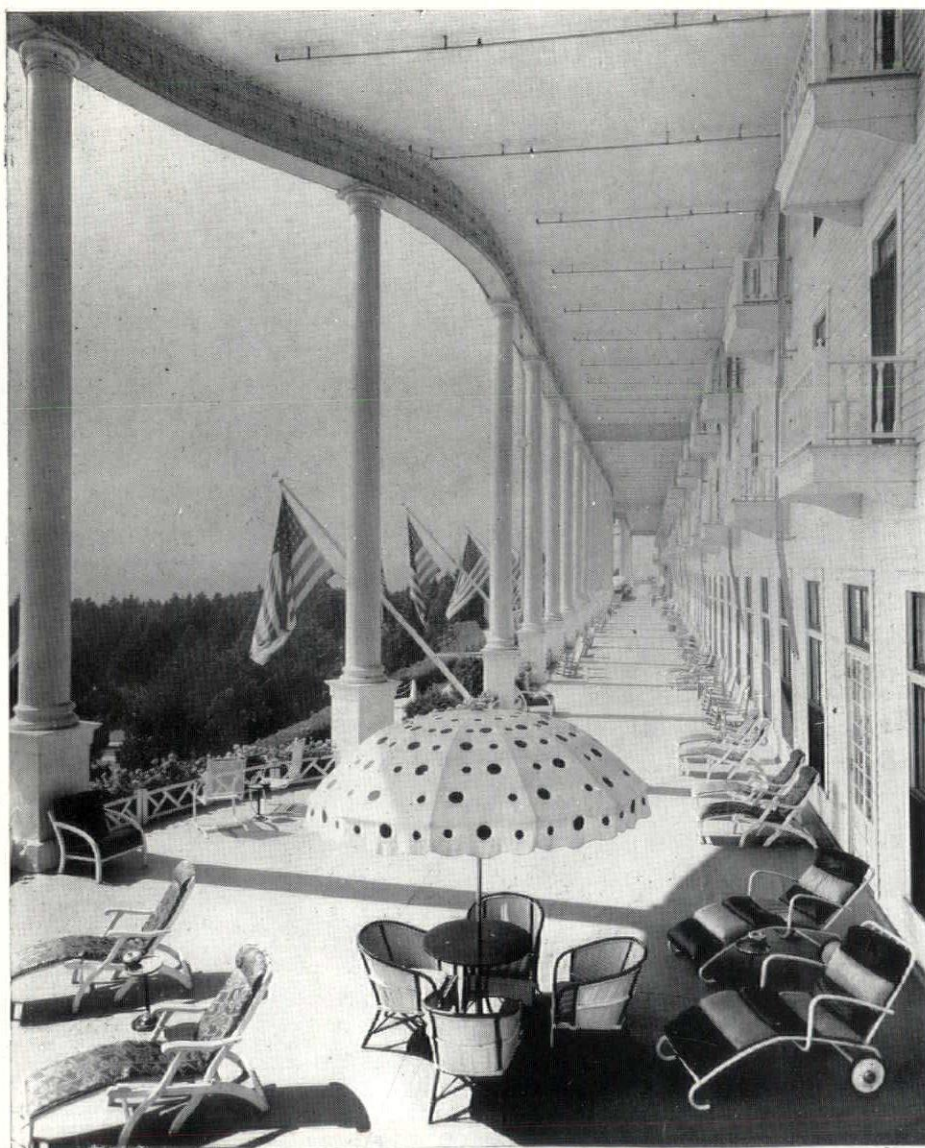




*Landscaped grounds and gardens are on every hand, with beautiful vistas overlooking the forests, cliffs and lakes, affording varied pleasure amidst gorgeous coloring and engaging scenes.*

*Cycling and riding are at their best on this well-groomed Island where no motor cars may interfere. Much of the Island is maintained by the State as its most notable State Park.*

*The Hotel was designed by GEORGE D. MASON, F.A.I.A.*



*It was Robert Ripley who stated correctly in his "Believe It Or Not" that the longest porch in the world is to be found at the Grand Hotel—the most perfect vacation is there also.*

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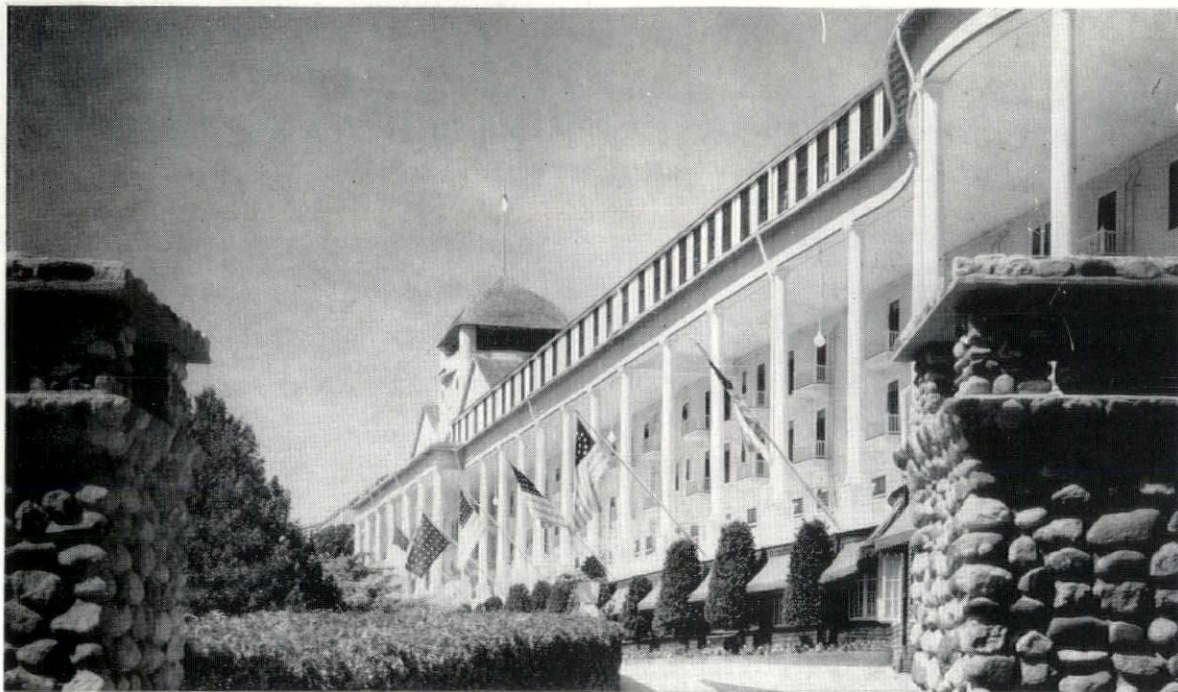
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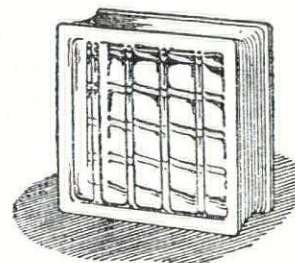
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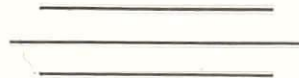
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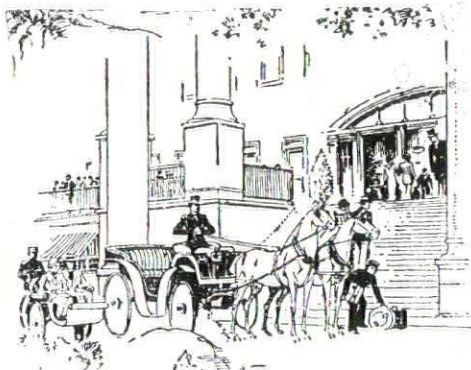


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of this famed resort. Sports, historic spots, floor shows, sun bathing, swimming, shopping, carriage rides and a thousand other things will make your visit the most memorable you have ever had.

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The main dining room at the Grand Hotel, there is nothing to equal dining in this colorful room with its bounteous service and guests beautifully attired.

After dinner a turn or two about the

veranda, with the concert orchestra playing from a balcony or on the porch, and the strolling troubadours, entertaining in the garden. Yachts and steamers glide slowly through the Straits in the moonlight, a never-to-be-forgotten scene.

There is nightly, supper dancing in the Blue Room and Casino.

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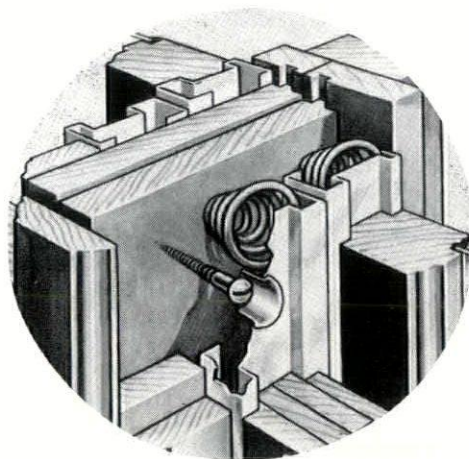
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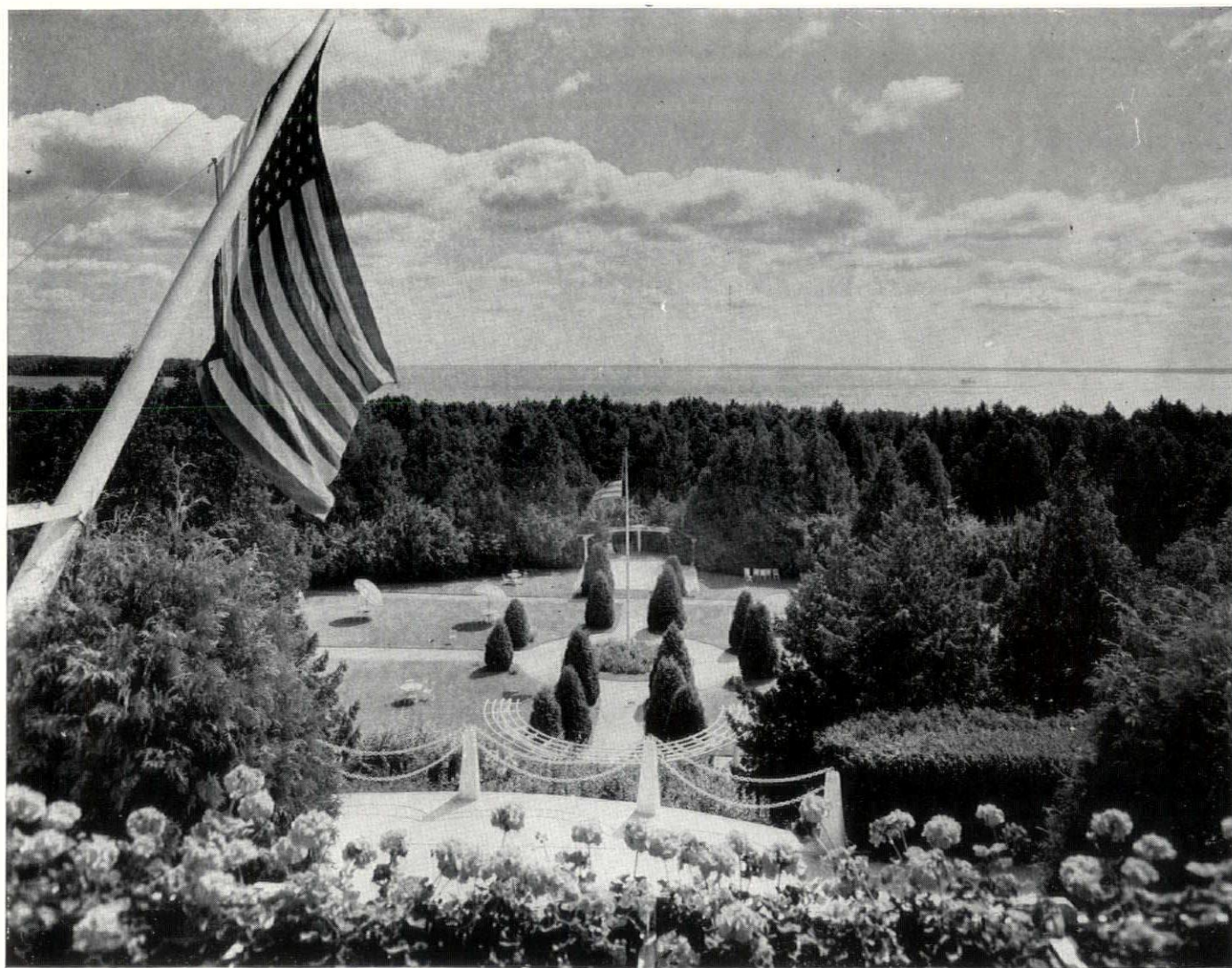
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## THE OLD MISSION CHURCH

The historic Old Mission Church on Mackinac Island, still standing in its original dimensions and appearance, was built in 1829-30. Mackinac, in those days, shared with Detroit in distinction, — the two towns being almost the only places of note in the State of Michigan.

The Fur Company's business, together with the general trading interests which centered in Mackinac Island brought a considerable population. Besides the teachers and their families and the population of the Mission School, there were many families of the village, officers and clerks, of the company, traders, native Indians, converts and others who were members in regular attendance at the old church. The Military Post too, used to be represented — officers and men coming down the street on Sunday mornings in martial step. The soldiers would stack their guns outside in front of the church; one of the men would be detailed to stand guard over the arms while the others would file into the pews set apart for their accommodation.

As a pioneer church on the wilderness frontier, it was remarkable in having on its membership roll and among its office bearers as "Ruling Elders" two men of such standing and public name as Robert Stuart and Henry R. Schoolcraft. The whole number of members enrolled during the history of the church was about eighty, exclusive of the Mission family.

Mr. Astor retired from the Fur Company and that business lost its magnitude. This involved the loss of many families and a change in social conditions. In 1834, Mr. Ferry who had been the Presbyterian Minister in charge of the Mission House and later of the Old Mission Church and who had been a worker on the Island since 1822, removed from the Island as did Mr. Stuart in the same year.

The Old Mission Church was built 111 years ago and is as simple and unassuming in its architecture as the religious beliefs of its founders. It is the oldest Protestant church in the Northwest, and while the building may not be considered remarkable because of its age, it has nevertheless gained countrywide fame because of the excellent preservation of its interior furnishings. The high pulpit, the box-like pews with their little doors and the quaint choir loft, today appear as they did a century ago. The same bell that once called soldier, fur trader, Island resident and native Indian to the first service in the little white-washed church, rings each year for a special service held each summer in July.

The exterior of the church with its shutters, many-paned windows, square tower surmounted by a belfry and weathervane has the charm of New England. Large windows at the sides of the church have 60 panes of glass; the belfry is covered with its original tin roof, which glistens in the sun; wide clapboarding covers the exterior, once white-washed but now painted.

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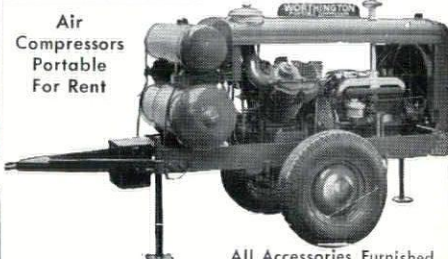
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# Wider Automobiles Necessitates Wider Garage Openings

By C. M. McCANN

Prior to the 1920's the housing of automobiles was not a matter of too much concern. Owners in those days either kept their cars in storage garages or in the barn or carriage shed recently vacated by the family surrey.

Early in the 1920's, however, people began to acquire automobiles who didn't have places to keep them and the residential garage came into general use.

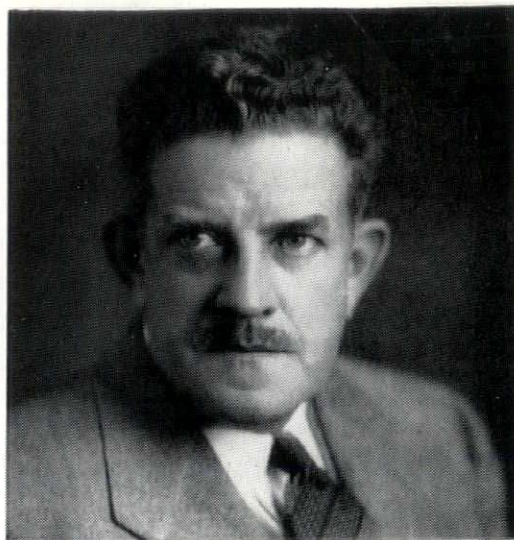
Cars then approximated five feet in width and an 8 foot garage door opening became standard. Since that time however, the cars have yearly become longer and wider. Along about 1935 the building trade recognized the trend to longer cars and changed the then standard 18 foot garage depth to 20 feet.

During the same period the opening height was reduced first to 7 ft. 6 in. and then to 7 ft. 0 in. but while cars were being reduced in height, their width was increasing proportionately.

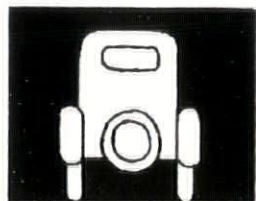
By 1941 two of the popular makes approximated 7 ft. in width and the demand was created for wider garage doors.

In 1941 the Tilt-A-Door Corporation recognizing the trend to much wider cars introduced the eight foot six door to the trade at a slight premium. While a good many of these doors were sold then, it wasn't until the 1946 and 1947 models began to be delivered that the public generally began to increase at a rapid rate. Because of this increased demand, the Tilt-A-Door Corporation made the eight six its standard size and has reduced the price to the old standard door price.

The accompanying illustrations show at a glance what has been happening to automobile bodies and in that most of the 1946 and 1947 models are really dressed up 1942 models they do not reflect the ultimate in width by any means.

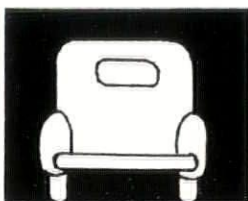


"BARNEY" McCANN



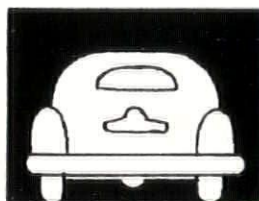
18" CLEARANCE

YEAR 1927



9" CLEARANCE

YEAR 1937



4" CLEARANCE

YEAR 1947



? CLEARANCE

YEAR 1950

The above sketches show the design trend to wider cars and the side clearances with the old standard 8'-0" wide opening.

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## THE ROMANCE OF MACKINAC ISLAND

There is a story that belongs to the dramatic background of the old Biddle House at Mackinac Island.

Edward Biddle married a beautiful Indian girl, and from that union was born Sophia Biddle. Sophia was beautiful. Her hair was glossy and black, her eyes were tawny and her figure as lithe as the reeds that bend along the shore.

Anxious that their daughter should have the finest education, they sent her to a school in the East. Her charm and cul-

ture, her brilliancy and her understanding all were incidental in winning and holding the heart of a young army lieutenant. Fearful of the consequences, the girl fell madly in love with the handsome lieutenant, failed to tell him of her Indian ancestry. He asked her to become his wife, — she accepted and returned to her home to plan for the wedding.

The young officer came to Mackinac, found the old house and when the door was opened in answer to his knock, he met the girl's mother for the first time. She was an Indian squaw, dressed in the full costume of her race.

Deeply disappointed, the lieutenant returned to his home to forget that he had ever loved a half-breed. But Sophia was not easily forgotten. He could not escape her memory. He returned to find her and once again the door was opened by her mother. "Where is Sophia?" he asked. The girl's mother greeted him in the stolid manner of her race. The expression of her face never changed; she only pointed to the cemetery where Sophia slept. And as the story goes, the young officer never forgot the loveliness of his Sophia. Her memory was the most beautiful thing he possessed. One summer twilight, he found a grassy mound in the corner of the old cemetery, and there, on the marker erected in her memory, he carved a rose. The tombstone with its carved rose still remains as a symbol of a lost and true love.

Mrs. Biddle was an Indian of queenly appearance; she dressed in Indian costume, — the finest black or blue broadcloth beautifully ornamented with silk and moose-hair work.

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**ISLAND'S PURE AIR UNCONTAMINATED  
NO AUTOMOBILES**

Dobbin is still king of the road on Mackinac Island, the one place in Michigan where the automobile is outlawed.

From June 1 to mid-September some 300 horses provide the only means of transportation at the famed resort, once the playground of the Swift, Armours, and Cudahy's, and widely known as the "Palm Beach of the North." The motor car is considered a threat to the island's romantic charm.

Driven by veteran "cabbies," who keep their roans, sorrels, chestnuts, bays and piebalds on the mainland in the winter, visitors do their errands by phaeton and surrey. They utilize these graceful vehicles of the past, some of which are trimmed with silver and precious woods, to visit historic spots along 35 miles of roadways.

Long lines of horses and carriages greet each boat from Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, and the big lake steamers. Some of the "cabbies" wear top hats and faded livery. The flicking of buggy whips and the clatter of hoofs bring a nostalgic yearning to older generations as the tourists roll away on sightseeing expeditions.

When the automobile came into prominence, the islanders were forced to take their choice between speedy traffic and the plodding horse. They couldn't reconcile gas fumes, signal lights and the blatting of horns with the antiquity of the trading post where John Jacob Astor obtained his start in the fur business, and old Fort Mackinac, once the "Gibraltar of the Great Lakes."

Fr. Marquette visited the island in the old days, the "horse minded" residents pointed out. Pontiac beached his canoe there on many occasions. British soldiers guarded the straits from its peaks, and the sprawling frontier community contained Indians, voyageurs, woodsmen, sailors from the coastwise schooners, and turbulent characters, who contributed many a page to early annals. The Guolds and Vanderbilts anchored their sailing yachts at the waterfront, drawn by scenery and the fame of the Grand Hotel, biggest wooden structure in the world.

"And now the automobile? Never! We'll stay old-fashioned and preserve our history," said the majority of the 00 year-round residents.

The ban was imposed by the city of Mackinac Island, originally incorporated as a fortified village in 1780, and by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, which has 1,800 of a total 2,400 acres under its jurisdiction. A resident, who had a shiny new car waiting at the dock, sued for its dissolution, but the courts held against him.

To make the restriction legal, the city opened French Lane and Bogan's Lane to motor traffic. There is a joker in this generosity, however, for one can't reach the two narrow thoroughfares without driving where automobiles are prohibited.

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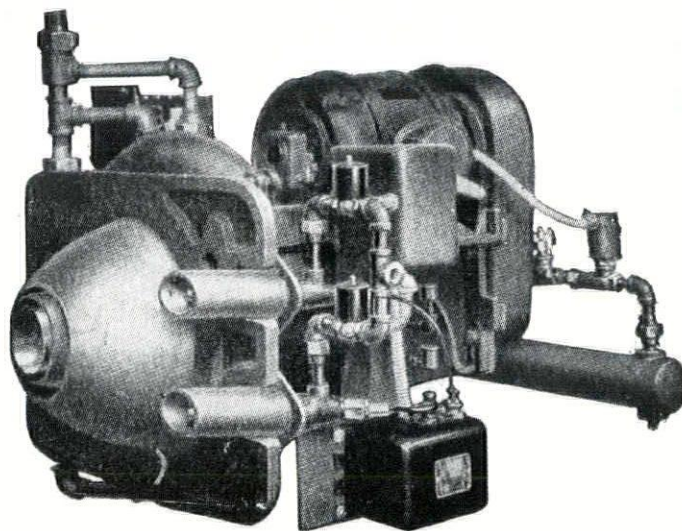
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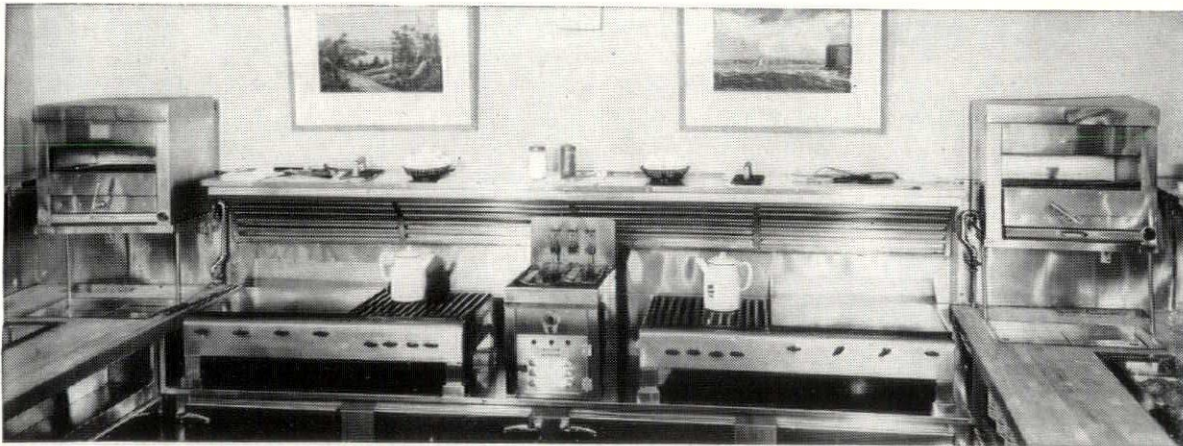
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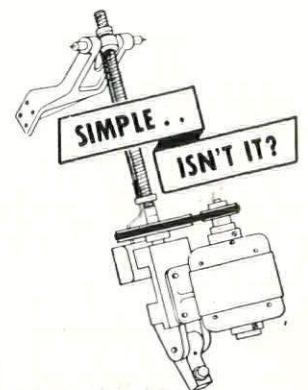
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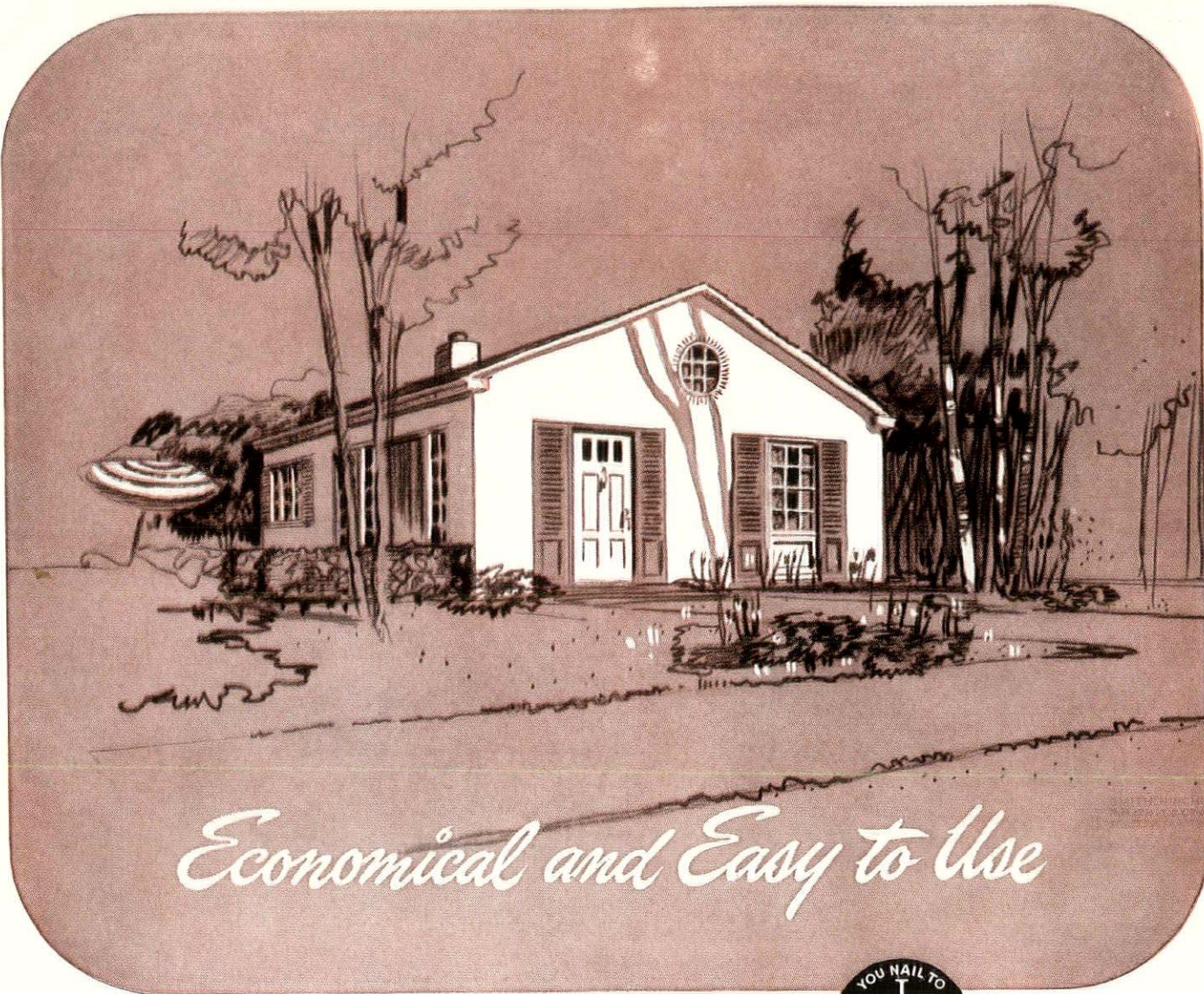
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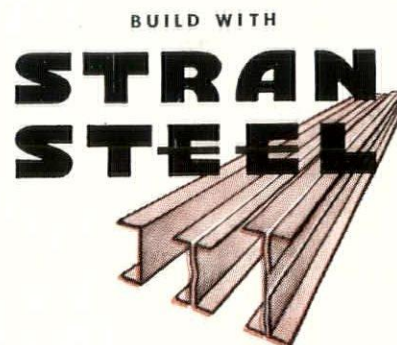


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